

PHOTO BY ANDRE PATTON



SCHOOL DAZE

ASPIRING BOARD MEMBERS FACE TOUGH CHOICES

by Brian Doohan

Within a few days thousands of Mission youth will be heading back to school while parents, teachers, administrators and the School Board wrangle over complicated issues of finances, race and an increasingly troublesome decline in educational standards and resources at a time when America's workforce is widely perceived as falling behind.

Or maybe they won't - such is the magnitude of the state's budget crisis.

San Francisco school board finance chief Bob Golton was did not respond to News calls (no doubt because of the budget crunch) but did release a statement late in the month to the effect that about 400 positions would be eliminated. Most would be through attrition, but over 100 paraprofessionals would likely be laid off. The magnitude of state budget cuts to local boards of education remained unresolved at presstime.

Mission parents made their presence known in August at a press conference before a school board meeting, and at a subcommittee meeting of the Mayor's Mission Task Force, which incoming Superintendent Waldemar (Bill) Rojas was expected to attend. But Rojas was a no-show, adding to the perception that the neighborhood is a low priority.

The relationship between the schools and San Francisco's Recreation and Parks Department was discussed at the Task Force meeting. In the 70s, according to committee chair Frank Lopez, students from San Francisco State were involved in internship programs but the project was dropped. Ever since then, the concept of child care as educational supplement has been retreating as workers, faced with low

pay and poor conditions, are able to serve as little more than jailers.

"There are college students who need college credit," one parent suggested, "high school students who need high school credit, they wouldn't cost anything and some way ought to be found to get them in here."

The parents who held a press conference at James Lick School before the school board meeting voiced other concerns, including the paucity of minority teachers and the infrequent scheduling of required courses.

These decisions will fall on the shoulders of the School Board members to be elected this November. The lack of funds and the highly politicized nature of the positions caused three of the four incumbents to retire, leading to an unprecedented set of circumstances... the opportunity has never been greater for someone to be elected but, then again, why would they want the job?

Nonetheless, sixteen brave or foolish souls have filed for election and the News asked the major candidates to offer a brief

explanation of what they could do for Mission youth and rate their budgetary priorities from a list of twenty provided. Those who replied are:

Tom Chester - Smaller class size as the primary district objective. Bring more adults into the schools by strengthening volunteer programs. Make school reform a major issue for city officials and business leaders. Strengthen bilingual education. Give more power to parents, teachers and principals. Explore with private and parochial schools ways to address common problems and share expertise. Highest budget priority: Desegregation, Teacher and paraprofessional salaries, Bilingual and latchkey services. Lowest priority:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

BEAT COP PROGRAM ADRIFT

BURNOUT FACTOR TAKES A TOLL

by Victor Miller

The San Francisco Police Department effort to reintroduce beat cops to the City's neighborhoods is in crisis. The Community Police Officer Program (CPOP), which began as a high profile pilot program in the 16th and Mission area three years ago, now covers the whole city but neighbors complain that the once easily-accessible beat officers are hard to reach by phone and less and less evident on the street.

A familiar face patrolling a designated

area getting to know the people and their problems; this was the CPOP concept and it became extremely popular with residents and business. Demands for CPOP officers' user-friendly assistance in solving neighborhood disputes and quality of life issues increased dramatically as the program became more widely known.

At the same time, the CPOP became the perceived solution for everybody's pet peeve, giving officers an ever expanding range of problems with no clearly defined priorities

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

CHILDCARE SITE FIREBOMBED

by Brian Doohan

What is being termed a probably retaliatory firebombing of a house just off Dolores Park on August 27th could have been far worse had it occurred during the daytime instead of after midnight because the building's tenant operated a day care center serving numerous Mission children.

"Even though neighbors and the police have urged us to stay," said Susan Finnegan, who will be moving her home and business to an undisclosed location, "I can't expect parents to bring their children here now. I'm a mother, first."

Finnegan, Garland Horton and their three year old son were awakened by a barrage of firebombs hurled at the building shortly after 1 AM. Two of the incendiary devices crashed through windows and started a fire, but it was

put out without injury to any of the residents.

Earlier, Finnegan had assisted police fighting an upsurge in drug dealing and related violence by pointing out a suspect who was questioned, then released.

Dolores Park has had an ongoing drug problem for years, but Finnegan told the News that conditions have rapidly deteriorated. "The drug trafficking has gone from easygoing marijuana dealers to blatant hard drug sales. Crack vials are all over the place. There have been three or four shootings, the last was just a month ago but they don't know if it was drug related."

Acting Mission Station Captain Richard Racine noted that 80 arrests of drug dealers and their customers had occurred in the past month. During one weekend, 11 of 15 arrested dealers were undocumented, leading

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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24TH STREET FESTIVAL'S BOLD MOVE

MECA DROPS TOBACCO SPONSORS AND ENDS ALCOHOL SALES

by Victor Miller

This year's 24th Street Festival de las Americas will celebrate not only the independence day of eight Latin American countries, (Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Chile, Brazil and Guatemala) but also the Festival's independence from tobacco company sponsorship and beer sales as revenue. This will make the Sunday, September 13th event unique among San Francisco street fairs, the trend setter of the 90s.

The decision by festival producers Mission Economic and Cultural Association (MECA) and the 24th Street Merchants' Association comes at a time of increasing community awareness of the adverse effects of both alcohol and tobacco on the Latino community. When the festival began seven years ago, MECA and the Merchants' Association were unable to gain the sponsorship of non-alcohol and tobacco related corporations. In the last few years, a growing Latino market and a wider appreciation of Latino culture have made for larger numbers of corporate sponsors. MECA and the Merchants' Association have now reached a point where community

pressure to eliminate booze and nicotine as prominent features of the celebration and the economic feasibility of doing so coincide. At least they hope so.

So those who have been the most critical of the festival's smoke and drink aspects should come out in force to eat their weight in pupusas and dance their socks off to the tune of this year's headline band, TIERRA.

TIERRA, (appearing 4 - 6 PM on the Harrison Street stage, is one of fifteen musical and dance groups that will appear on three stages - Hampshire, Harrison and Folsom at 24th between 11 AM and 6 PM. TIERRA, which has a decade of hits behind it, is an East Los Angeles band with a hot R&B sound that is heavily influenced by Salsa. The group has performed at Carnegie Hall, on American Bandstand and Soul Train.

In addition to TIERRA is the ever popular EL CHICANO (2-3 PM, Harrison), the LATIN JAZZ QUINTET (11 am - Noon, Folsom), FOLKLORICO NACIONAL MEXICANO (2 - 2:30 pm, Folsom), two hours of youth entertainment (11 AM - 1 PM, Hampshire) and LOS SUPER SONICAS (3:45 - 6 PM, Hampshire).

Although the festival stretches for twelve



24th Street Fair headliner Tierra.

blocks from Mission to Hampshire on 24th Street, the first block between Mission and Capp will be especially interesting, since it will display the multifaceted talents to be found in the Mission Cultural Center. The Cultural Center, which offers a number of low cost classes in fields such as dance, poetry, music and photography, houses Teatro Mission and Mission Grafica.

The Mission Cultural Center is providing a full day of entertainment for the family that includes Mascaritas, a bilingual puppet theater, Mission Grafica textiles and posters, dance and musical performances by teachers and students at cultural center classes and the Leonard Peltier Defense/500 Years of Resistance Art Show.

At Bryant and 24th there will be something for even the youngest of revelers, the Huggies Baby Derby. Throughout the day, special prizes will be awarded to the tiniest of tiny tots who run in the "crawl race".

Also at Bryant for slightly older children,

there will be games and activities galore, including a bean bag toss, wheel of fortune and face painting. The Mission Library will provide story telling, and the SPCA will be there with animals from their adopt-a-pet program. For older kids and teens, some of the Bay Areas classiest custom cars will be on display.

Last, but not least, will be the many delights to eye and palate. The richness of Latin American cuisine and finely crafted works of art will fill the street with the tastes, sights, sounds and aromas of a Latin mercado, a tradition that continues in the Mission District's 24th Street Latin Quarter throughout the year.

So get on out there on September 13th and celebrate eight independence days, the City's most public health conscious event and the many fine features of the most multicultural of neighborhoods.

For more event information, contact MECA at 826-1401.



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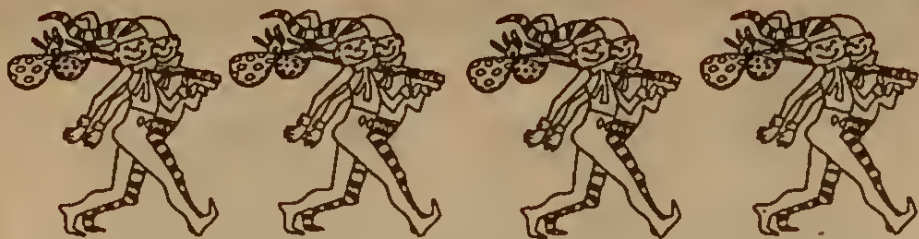
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Guardian Angels keep watch at firebombing site. Photo by Joe Hakim.

FIREBOMBED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Racine to note that "there have been robberies and attempted robberies of these dealers, they can't go to the police."

Inspector Roy Sullivan, who is conducting the investigation for the Arson Task Force, said "we're still talking to people". and Mission Station community relations officer Joe Clemons acknowledged that officers "would like to talk" to the man arrested at Finnegan's initiative, but he apparently has gone into hiding.

Following the incident, police patrols increased in the park area, supplemented by the Guardian Angels. "The police are doing all they can with all of the problems at Mission Station," Finnegan said, "but the group of people dealing drugs has changed, they're more bold and brazen."

Be that as it may, the best hope for cracking this case may still be the drug dealers themselves. As in other communities where

children have been murdered or endangered, police and community pressure greatly increases and, despite Mission Station's chronic understaffing, it is a safe assumption that the drug business in Dolores Park will be seriously impacted until the firebomber is caught.

Criminals are businesspeople too. Knowing that they will be hurt economically as long as the case is open, sooner or later someone is apt to turn the torch in. Criminals who harm children are at the bottom of the pecking order - even in the state's toughest prisons and, as Racine said, "we have the pressure on"

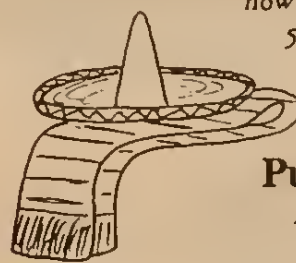
He also advised that crime witnesses not follow Finnegan's mistake of notifying an officer in the presence of suspect who could identify them for later retaliation.

Persons with information on the firebombing should call Roy Sullivan of the Arson Task Force at 597-7990.

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Catania Galvan - Stop looking at teaching as a business, Cut top heavy administration and hire and maintain top quality educators. Involve more of the retired com-

Continued from page 1

studies. Low priority: new facilities and maintenance, interschool sports, bilingual studies.

Janet Shirley: More bilingual services to Mission parents to involve them in school activity. Hiring of minority and bilingual teachers, promote bilingual community meetings and parent information services. High priority: Remedial, advanced, vocational, adult and health education. Low priority: new facilities, American history studies.

Jill Wynns: More cooperation (and maybe even civility?) at School Board meetings. More decision making by neighborhood communities such as the Mission. Specifically notes that many budget items are linked with other departments, suggests collaboration with other agencies in administering Prop. J.



PHOTO BY WALTER SANCHEZ

munity and the business sector... poll parents as to what they'd like to see in schools. High priority: School/business partnerships. Low priority: administrative salaries, remedial and vocational education.

Carol Kocivar: Target funds to staff development to perfect a variety of teaching techniques to help Hispanic, African-American and other minority students. Link city, county, private and community services (library, recreation, health and social programs etc.) with school programs. High priority: Staff development. Low priority: new facilities.

Robert Raven: Increase graduation rate of Mission students through more emphasis on basic skills, vocational training and internships and after school activities. More community outreach and parent education. High priority: Latchkey services, remedial and vocational education, multicultural and American history

funds in such areas as latchkey services. High priority: special services (advanced, remedial, vocational, bilingual, gay/lesbian, health). Low priority: new facilities and maintenance, advanced education.

Leland Yee (incumbent): Cites failure of the School Board to preserve the Mission Education Center, would continue to try to return it. Prevent drop outs and push outs, work more closely with other child-serving agencies both private and public. High priority: Teacher and paraprofessional salaries, most multicultural and special courses. Low priority: new facilities, adult education.

Also running are Rev. Amos Brown, a former Community College Board member, Enola Maxwell of the Potrero Neighborhood House, Richard Brooks, Michael Caldwell, Barry Gruber, David Hoog, James Howard, Steve Phillips and Richard Weissman.

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CHARTER TROUBLE

by Mark Mosher

Why is San Francisco always in the red? A recent study by the non-partisan Mayor's Fiscal Advisory Committee (MFAC) found that San Francisco provides service levels three to five times higher than comparable cities in areas ranging from public health to public transportation. San Francisco's public salaries — among the highest in the nation, according to MFAC — inflate the cost of these services.

Part of the problem is San Francisco's outmoded City Charter. Part organizational blueprint and part personnel handbook, the current Charter was drafted in 1932 when city leaders were more concerned with stopping graft and corruption than with operational ef-

iciency. With stronger, modern anti-corruption laws on the books, the Charter's dilution of executive and legislative power seems unnecessary. The Charter also contains detailed rules dictating the hiring, management and pay of city employees that are clearly out of date. As a result, we have:

Weak Mayor Syndrome

According to critics, the Charter makes managing the City's 50 departments more difficult because the Mayor technically cannot interfere in the day to day operation of departments. Instead, the Mayor must appoint commissioners, some of whom serve for fixed terms. As a result, a newly elected Mayor may face holdover commissioners from a past administration who do not share his or her views on policy.

The Salary Spiral

Under the Charter, salaries of city employees not set through collective bargaining are set by salary formulas based on pay in other cities and in the private sectors. For example, Muni drivers' pay is based on the two highest-paying transit districts in the country. As a result, they make almost 15 percent more than drivers in the neighboring San Mateo County Transit District. In addition, the Charter gives the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors little authority to reduce the amount of raises given to city employees — even when San Francisco faces massive budget deficits. They can only block automatic salary increases through across-the-board wage freezes.

Charter Reform

Given these criticisms, it is not surprising there have been attempts to reform the Charter — two significant ones in the last 20 years

alone. But the Charter is not an easy document to reform. First, it is dense and very hard to understand. Second, Charter reform initiatives can be placed on the ballot only by a vote of six supervisors or 40,000 petition signatures. Approval requires a majority of San Francisco voters.

Still, Charter reform does happen. Voters last year passed Propositions C, D and E which allow the Civil Service Commission to reform most areas of Civil Service operations, except for salary setting methods. The Commission anticipates an annual savings to the City of \$20 million from these reforms. In addition, State Senator Quentin Kopp has proposed a package of nine Charter reform initiatives that may qualify for the ballot in 1993. Mayor Jordan is also expected to submit his own Charter reform package for November, 1993.



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CLEAN STREETS FEVER

In an explosion of cleanup efforts and volunteerism, the Mission District got a badly needed new look. On August 15th, the Mission Merchants' Association, in conjunction with the city wide clean streets group Neighbors to Neighbors, chaired by Frank Jordan Jr., attacked graffiti and litter along the Mission Street corridor between Army and 24th Streets.

Hundreds of volunteers converged at the 24th St. BART station and quickly exhausted supplies as they gave a face lift to a very heavily tagged portion of the neighborhood. Mission Merchants President Al Ribaya estimated there were 300-400 volunteers at work. Participants came from the 24th Street Merchants, the Guardian Angels, Victory Outreach, Mission Economic and Cultural Association, Mission Economic Development Association, KIQI radio, Walden House, Supervisorial candidates Barbara Kaufman and Adrian Bermudez... even a group of people who said they had come from Nevada!

On the other side of the Mission, Supervisorial candidate Maria Martinez waged what was literally a clean campaign that enlisted the help of several dozen volunteers in attacking grime and litter at what is perhaps the neighborhood's toughest block - Mission between 16th and 17th Streets.

Martinez, whose offices are just around the corner on 17th Street, said she was amazed, not just by the support of local merchants, but by the enthusiastic assistance of the local hard core street people. Martinez says she will keep up such efforts on a regular basis.

Later in the month, Mission and Valencia

Streets were given palm trees, adding to the already tropical nature of San Francisco's sunniest district. The trees were snapped up by the Mission after Marina neighbors balked at accepting what they thought to be to Los Angeles an image statement.

At Franklin Square Park on the Mission's northeast corner (Potrero and Bryant), 72 kids aged 12-14 from the Mission, Hunter's Point and elsewhere painted the normally drab park walls with a series of colorful murals. The project was directed by the San Francisco Conservation Corps in conjunction with artists Barry McGee and Rigo '92 from the Southern Exposure Artists' Collective.

At press time, a project by Kelley Moore Paints and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce was underway to repaint several Mission schools in conjunction with parent and student volunteers.

All in all, August was a 4-star month for looking good in the Mission.



CLEANUP ORGANIZER AND MISSION MERCHANTS PRESIDENT AL RIBAYA WITH 24TH STREET MERCHANTS PRESIDENT ROSA RIVERA



A PALM TREE RISES ON MISSION STREET WITH THE HELP OF RICARDO NOGUERA (left) WHO OVERSEES THE WORK OF THE SHOVEL BEARING MISSION MERCHANTS PRESIDENT AL RIBAYA, SUPERVISOR JIM GONZALEZ AND ROBERTO BARRAGAN OF THE MISSION ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOC



FRANKLIN PARK MURAL PROJECT

PHOTO BY JOE HAKIM



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A MULTICULTURAL CENTER

by Joseph Entin

In June, as public schools closed their doors for three months and concerns about escalating gang violence rose to the top of the Mission's worry list, the Columbia Park Boys' Club settled down for another busy summer supervising, educating and entertaining the district's youth.

"In school I know a lot of kids who are in gangs. But in here (at the Boys' Club), they don't show their gang colors. When they come in here, they come to have fun, and not as gang members," explains 18-year old Vinh Nguyen, Columbia Park's 1991 "Youth of the Year".

Serving 1,440 Mission district youth a year and up to 400 kids each summer day, Columbia Park must be considered one of the community's primary anti-gang, youth enrichment resources. "A lot of our kids are gang affiliated, but when they come through the door, we become the gang," says Jim Richards, Executive Director of the Boys' Club.

Richards says that the Columbia Park Club, founded in 1895 as a youth settlement house, provides the same brand of service today as when it first opened: building-centered, professionally-staffed, every-day accessible, low or no cost activities geared especially to low-income boys.

Although the Club's spirit has remained the same, it's clear that the organization has adapted to the times, tailoring its traditional developmental ethic to serve a diverse, postmodern kids community. "We have a truly multi-cultural program," says Richards, alluding to the fact that Club staff speak five languages - from Tagalog to Spanish to Vietnamese.

Much more than a hang-out, the Club offers a wide range of enticing activities for youth, facilitated by a dynamic staff. "We are not a recreation center," Richards emphasizes. "Every room has a full time staff person who devotes 8 hours a day to working with kids in one-to-one, small group and large group processes."

"We have an obvious advantage over the schools: boys come here because they choose to. In addition, we have so many things they want to do," Richards explains. The Club's building houses 6 departments on two floors and includes a Mackintosh computer lab, a billiards room, a ceramics studio, and a full photography lab (whose roving photographers supply cover photos for the New Mission News). "We probably have the most developed \$5-a-year art program in the city. Our kids do outstanding art work!"

One-half of the Club members live in single-parent households. Vinh Nguyen, who has been attending the Club for the past eleven

PHOTO BY JOSEPH ENLAGEN



THREE SATISFIED CUSTOMERS AT COLUMBIA PARK

years, immigrated to the United States from Vietnam at age five with his father. His mother and two sisters remained behind. Vinh has recently been selected by the Bay Area Discovery Museum as one of the "Ten Bay Area Kids Who Make A Difference" and he will attend San Francisco State in September.

"Growing up, I was one of the few Asian kids here, but it was easy for me to get along because everyone is so friendly... It's easy to make friends here," Nguyen says.

The Club balances a structured program of basic skills training with a progressive emphasis on youth creativity and independence. "Kids self-select. They come and go of their own volition and choose what activities they want to participate in," Richards asserts. "We only establish those rules that we think are necessary for the group to get along. We don't have all kinds of crazy rules. We're very consistent so when kids come from a sometimes very inconsistent environment out on the street or in the home or even in the school, they come to Columbia Park and know what the expectations are: they're supposed to treat each other with respect, and to be safe, and there'll be someone here to help them do that."

Richards says integrating girls into Columbia Park is at the top of the Club's agenda. The Club is planning a \$2 million renovation to align the building with the latest disability-access codes and to provide locker-rooms for girls.

The driving goals of the Club are to help each member enter high school at grade level and "to teach them that they have the capacity to be in control of their own lives," according to Richards.

"The desire to participate and to learn is in every kid. They want to belong. They join the gangs because they want to belong to an affinity group. At Columbia Park, we've just made the affinity group much larger and inclusive of all kids."

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CPOP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other than dealing with the most persistent complainers. This has led to a situation of high turnover in personnel due to the burnout, leading to changeovers in beat assignments so frequent as to be self defeating for the program.

Eileen Gold, a realtor who has been active with the Dolores Park Coalition told the News "CPOP has just flopped. It's impossible to figure out who our CPOP officer is."

Jim Klennon, who works with Calle 22, a neighborhood group along 22nd Street, said "We used to see these guys all the time, but now where are they?"

Hilda Bernstein, President of the Liberty Hill Association called CPOP "Non-functional."

On June 5th, the Mayor's Taskforce on the Mission (MTFM) sent a letter to Mission Station Captain John Newlin requesting a meeting to re-evaluate CPOP. Receiving no response, the MTFM sent a similar request to Commander Jim Arnold, Newlin's immediate superior. Still getting no answer, the Task Force recommended to the Mayor that the CPOP operation be suspended until the community and CPOP personnel could sit down and decide where the program was going.

Officer Joanne Welsh served as CPOP coordinator at Mission Station until transferring to Taraval Station last month. Welsh was very clear on what CPOP was intended to be and what had gone wrong.

"CPOP was intended to be proactive, using problem solving techniques to abate crime, but the administration of our department has not internalized that idea, and has used CPOP in a very reactive way. We are simply pulled from problem to problem and CPOP people get burned because we have no sense of accomplishment. We never see a result."

Besides being CPOP coordinator at Mission Station, Welsh was also in charge of all special events, parades, foot races, demonstrations etc., setting up a Youth Court and being the police representative on the city's Housing and Building code enforcement taskforce. This last assignment seemed to be ideally suited to the CPOP concept of local problem solving, and especially pertinent to the problem of the hell-hole hotels along Mission and Valencia which generate tremendous numbers of calls for police service.

Welsh had had some significant successes in a highly publicized crackdown on the Grand Southern Hotel last year, but was never given the time or resources to move on other buildings. Consequently, the neighborhood's other 43 residential hotels continue, for the most part, in the same crime, slum and sleaze tradition.

The City Attorney's Office, which is charged with prosecuting slumlord cases, has been only too happy to dump the hotel mess on CPOP but Welsh doesn't think that's realistic. "For action on the hotels, you need support from a (police department) administration that is behind the project and willing to change priorities."

Sgt. Larry Ratti, the Mission Station's CPOP coordinator, sees the beat cop problem as symptomatic of the station's chronic understaffing. "Nowhere in the district do we have the resources we need. Resources are moved from one area to another."

What this means is that CPOP officers are not easily replaced when they are out sick or injured because other cops do not have CPOP training. Ratti also pointed out that people expect too much from CPOP. "We are

not a cure all. CPOP is the greatest community relations play in the world, but we can't do everything."

Recently, CPOP has been swamped with calls from angry merchants about people selling mangos from unlicensed street corner stands. CPOP cops were delegated to bodyguard health department inspectors who went forth to cite the offending mango sellers. Officers uniformly hated the duty, referring to it as the Mango Task Force.

Ratti believes CPOP needs clear indication from the community as to what CPOP's priorities should be, in order for the program to work.

Both he and Welsh agree that too many community groups are pulling CPOP, making conflicting demands on CPOP personnel and contributing to the burnout factor.

Commander Jim Arnold, while admitting there were problems with officer burnout, said that recently instituted reforms would correct some of the problems. "Initially we trained only a few patrol officers as CPOP personnel, but not lieutenants or captains. CPOPs were seen as a specialized unit and just another way to drain off radio car personnel. They were not seen as real cops, but they are, in many cases, busier than other cops. You can see that by the burnout factor."

According to Arnold, all SF police personnel will now be trained in the CPOP problem solving, proactive approach, allowing for replacements for sick and injured officers.

Captain Newlin was on vacation in August and acting Mission Station Commander Richard Racine also stressed a more team-oriented approach between CPOP and other cops. Racine said some overlap of radio car patrol routes and CPOP beats would also ease the workload. He promised to better response times in terms of answering calls and increased presence on the street. He cautioned that "the program will still be somewhat reactive, to respond to citizens' concerns."

Sgt. Steve Johnson, who just started working with Ratti as co-supervisor of CPOP at Mission Station, was more positive about affirmative efforts by CPOP. He said such projects would include joint action with the state parole board in dealing with the nearly 1,000 parolees in the Mission, a Youth Court and an attempt to revive the code enforcement program for residential hotels. Johnson also felt utilizing resources such as UCSF Police and BART Police would decrease CPOP's workload.

Johnson whimsically opined that manpower problems could be eased considerably if only the Capp Street hookers would begin to sell mangos.

But despite these proposed internal reforms, CPOP remains ambiguous in terms of its priorities and direction. In a diverse and vocal neighborhood such as the Mission, this leaves the program vulnerable to the demands of divergent interests and conflicting agendas. It also allows CPOP people to be moved off their beats to fill in gaps in understaffed Mission Station.

The return of beat cops three years ago was a refreshing attempt to humanize urban police work that is all too often coldly impersonal or authoritarian. It was a much needed experiment in crime prevention which put officers in the role of problem solvers, eliminating chronic sources of illegal activity.

Whether these are realistic expectations, given today's increasingly complex and volatile inner city landscape, remains to be seen. Is the idea of beat cops a bit of wisdom from the past whose time has come again, or merely an idea whose time has passed?



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FOLSOM: THE SCOUNDREL

by John Barbey

Captain Joseph Libbey Folsom was a very prominent figure in the earliest history of San Francisco. He was intelligent, highly principled according to the standards of that day and, above all, very ambitious.

He was probably the first supremely successful real-estate investor here and, not surprisingly, there are very dark shadows on his reputation.

Folsom graduated with honors from West Point and was immediately sent to active duty; forcibly removing the Seminole tribe from Florida under General Worth to the waste lands of Oklahoma - a part of Andrew Jackson's terrible removal of all the Indian tribes from the Southeast (which included the Cherokee "Trail of Tears"). He performed this ghastly duty well and was promoted to Second Lieutenant.

Folsom then taught infantry tactics at West Point for several years and was such a good teacher that the Army would not let him join his fellow officers to fight in the war with Mexico. This was lucky for Folsom as Mexico was victorious at this point and all the officers in his regiment were killed.

Then the Army requested volunteers to secure the remote outpost of Northern California and Folsom, showing early signs of ambition, cheekily requested an unprecedented double promotion to the rank of captain in exchange for his acceptance. He was elevated to captain on the day of his departure.

Folsom was made head of the Quartermaster Department on arrival and, after a tour of the whole Bay Area, he personally chose

the village of San Francisco - a significant boost to the City's early pre-eminence. (It may have had something to do with the wonderful bawdy-houses already in business there.) With what little money he had Folsom acquired small bits of land - then made his big move.

Exotic looking William Alexander Leidesdorff, the most prominent merchant of the village, died young. Well-beloved, he had a fine house, the only flower garden and built the City's first horse track in the Mission District where he was buried at Mission Dolores after a large funeral.

Gold had been discovered in the Sierras in January of 1846 and its presence announced to the world in May. In June, Folsom departed to the far-off West Indies to buy Leidesdorff's properties from his surviving relatives.

Folsom found Leidesdorff's mother, a lady of mixed African, Caribbean Indian and English blood in her sixties. Probably tricking the old woman, he offered her then-large sum of \$75,000, paid her "earnest money" of \$5,000 and returned with a promissory note.

The poor old girl soon discovered she had been tricked and that Leidesdorff's lands (including the huge rancho where the town of Folsom now stands) were worth 20 times the full sum of \$75,000. With the support of the Governor of her small island, she refused the first payment of the balance and embarked on a long voyage to San Francisco with her nieces.

A spectacular trial resulted. As might be suspected, the mother's minority status and her gender were not helpful. Folsom had the



Joseph Libbey Folsom - his appearance certainly matched his personality.

most brilliant lawyer of his day, a Virginian named Edmund Randolph. Leidesdorff's mother had John Dwinelle, a good lawyer but no match for Randolph, and Folsom won. The decision was fiercely contested and Folsom actually fought a duel with a popular newspaper editor.

Folsom was quick to build up his new fortune, making the first luxury hotel in San Francisco, the "Tehama House" (which survived until the 1906 earthquake), pioneered infilling shallow Bay areas and constructing over them, rented tents to arriving gold prospectors, built the first mansion on Rincon Hill and fought off endless lawsuits and squatters. He also earned a reputation as an ungenerous person and a tax cheat.

He has been mentioned as a client of "Belle Gora" the most glamorous madam in town, and was nearly engaged to the young daughter of Senator Gwin before his early death in 1855 at age 38, which even thwarted his ability to enjoy his ill-gotten fortune. Legal fights over what would be called the "Folsom/Leidesdorff estate" would continue until 1863, the ultimate beneficiaries being the attorneys. No Folsoms would follow to settle in San Francisco.

Today, Folsom is remembered by a huge

dam on the American River, said to be larger than the Aswan Dam in Egypt, a prison celebrated by musician Johnny Cash and the local street. In May of 1924 the Board of Supervisors under the Mission's own Mayor James Rolph would purchase two large houses and a warehouse for brooms and brushes on Folsom and 21st for the purpose of creating a small recreation area, Folsom Playground. The owners, two widows, were paid \$7,000, a fair value for the property at the time, out of City funds.

Mission residents are asking that this playground be renamed for Jose Coronado who grew up in this neighborhood (which was a horsetrack for ten years after Folsom's death). A model citizen who gave his all to the little Park and Rec facility and to the Mission's youth, his is a pleasant name, not yet used for a park facility, and sets a fine example San Franciscans would do well to emulate.

The hearing on the name change will be held Thursday, September 17th, 4 PM at McLaren Lodge, just off Fell and Stanyan Streets in Golden Gate Park.

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LEAD IN HOMES PERILS KIDS

by Kate Elder

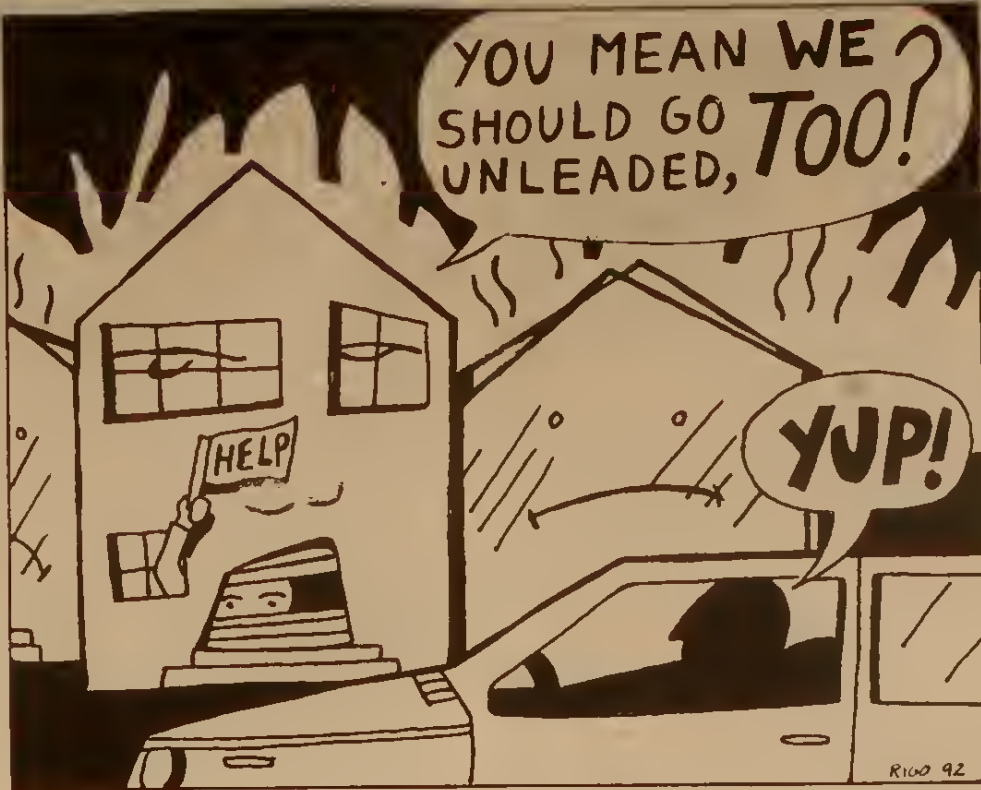
One of the most common environmental threats to children today is invisible. Lead poisoning is "silent" - most children have no symptoms. However lead poisoning can cause permanent damage to the central nervous system.

Lead is most toxic to children from the ages of 9 months to 5 years. Neil Gendel of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning describes the range of its effects "from flu-like problems, such as an upset stomach and headache, to serious impairment to developmental abilities: hyperactivity increases, attention span decreases and the IQ of the child may drop dramatically." It is difficult to identify these problems as specific to lead poisoning, therefore the majority of cases go undiagnosed and untreated.

Lead poisoning does not have any social, economic or geographical boundaries; all racial and ethnic groups are affected. However, many common sources of lead are found in the Mission.

Lead based paint is the major source of childhood lead poisoning in the country. Although the level of lead in paint was reduced in 1950, and again in 1978, any house that was built before 1950 is likely to contain high levels of lead paint. Gendel reports that about "75 - 80% of the houses in San Francisco are painted with lead."

Patricia Sutton, a Research Scientist for the State of California, states that "many people associate the danger in lead paint with an outdated image of children eating flakes of paint off walls. The real threat lies in the fact



that the old paint disintegrates over the years and turns into dust. The dust is almost impossible to see as it may cover floors, toys and other household items children play with or even put in their mouths."

Pregnant women are also very susceptible; Gendel states that "it only takes a very small amount of lead - similar to three grains of sugar" to effect the fetus.

Renovations done improperly in older homes can create tragic amounts of lead dust or fumes, as sanding, burning or scraping lead

paint is very dangerous. Many workers in the painting, radiator repair, battery manufacturing and sandblasting industries are in danger of infesting their homes with lead by taking it home on their clothes and body.

Another cause of lead poisoning in Hispanic communities are some common home remedies known as Azercon, a bright orange powder, and Greta, a yellow powder, given for empacho, or intestinal illness. Parents attempting to improve the health of their children can, unknowingly, to irreparable harm.

One case study, done by the State of California, reports "a nine month old baby boy in Los Angeles County was tested for lead poisoning after being seen in the emergency room for convulsions. A few hours earlier, his family had given him half a teaspoon of Greta, mixed with milk and sugar to treat his vomiting and irritability. The baby's blood level was found to be 94 ug/dl (normal levels are below 10 ug/dl) and the Greta was 89% lead." Both home remedies contain close to 100% lead, and children have died from the toxic levels of lead in both substances.

Imported tin cans, ceramics and painted toys are all dangerous, as they may contain lead. Tin cans are soldered with lead in some countries, and the paint used on ceramics can contain lead, which can then leach into food.

In 1985, the U.S. Center for Disease Control set the lead poisoning definition of levels over 25 micrograms per deciliter (1/10 of a liter, slightly less than two ounces, noted as ug/dl). However, in 1991, a report stated that "New data indicates significant adverse effects of lead levels previously believed to be

safe." The new level was set at 10 ug/dl.

In March, 1992, the Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control at the San Francisco Department of Public Health released the results of a study of blood lead levels of children in San Francisco. According to the new level, the Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control found that 1 in 12 children were lead poisoned in San Francisco.

However, that rate might actually be higher, since the study only reflects those who "are motivated enough not only to seek preventive medical care but to go through the blood drawing procedure. Our study may underestimate the possibly higher risk in families with health care access problems or who seek only crisis care but who are, nonetheless, in high exposure situations." Leticia Alcantar of the Consumer's Union reports that "8-10% of children in the Mission have lead poisoning."

People in San Francisco are concerned. Supervisor Kevin Shelley has introduced a set of resolutions on lead poisoning, that were passed on August 10, 1992. A tougher ordinance will be introduced within the next few weeks, and will contain a wide range of measures promoting education, testing and abatement of lead in the environment.

Shelley's ordinance will include a multilingual bulletin produced by the Department of Public Health to be sent to schools, preschools and physicians. It will also contain an agreement with the Health Department, that if a child's blood lead level is over 20 ug/dl, the Dept. of Public Health will inspect the family's home. The Consumer's Union is also working to encourage outreach and education about lead poisoning in the Mission, with neighbors, relatives and fellow employees organizing around this issue.

The most important action for parents to take is to immediately have their children tested for lead blood levels. About 80% of families in San Francisco qualify for free blood lead tests through the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program (415-) 554-9950. Parents can contact the San Francisco Department of Public Health at (415) 554-2733 or the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning at (415) 777-9635 to receive more information such as the testing and removal of paint at home.

Temporarily, parents can remove some lead from the environment by taking some simple steps. Wet mopping floors will help keep dust at a minimum; washing children's hands and their toys frequently and changing clothes and showering after working with paint helps to keep lead out of the home.

The good news is that lead poisoning is preventable. The bad news is that the damage it does to a developing brain is irreparable.

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MISSION INSIDER!

BY LISA HAMBURGER



HAVE I GOT A PLAN FOR YOU...

In what could be an attempt to follow through on his campaign pledge to be a citizen mayor, Mayor Jordan's Office of Economic Planning and Development (MOEPD) has been going around the city to gather input for neighborhood economic development plans.

The MOEPD started their neighborhood based plans with Bayview Hunters Point and the Tenderloin. The Bayview plan was severely criticized by community activists when Mayor Jordan's Chief Economist Kent Sims implied that the area would not be able to attract businesses of much repute.

Most of this was played out in the local newspapers. In the aftermath, Mr. Sims office was relieved of overseeing the Mayor's Office of Community Development and Housing. As for the Tenderloin, I've heard nothing about the merits of The Plan.

Recent events in the City's various departments and commissions may provide a clue as to what the Mission can expect.

At the Planning Commission meeting of August 20, an item of much controversy was moved to be continued. (Often a euphemism for...lets postpone doing what we want until there are less people.) The issue is the conversion of a residential hotel to tourist use.

By and large such conversions are prohibited by the Residential Hotel Unit Conversion and Demolition ordinance. In some cases the petition to convert is granted, but the developer must mitigate the loss of these units with the payment of \$500,000 to the Affordable Housing Trust.

Word is out on the streets that the Planning Commission is going to approve the conversion and not require the mitigation fee. No matter which side of the aisle you're on when it comes to affordable housing or the cost of

mitigation placed on developers, one cannot escape the queasiness which comes over when considering the relationships between the players.

The Planning Commission President Sidney Unobskey and members of the developer's team merrily huddling and laughing together before the meeting. And, the developer's attorney, Mr. Joseph Bravo serves on a non-profit board along side a Planning Commissioner. The problem is not with Commissioner, who's reputation and activism over the years cannot be questioned, but rather because of the association with Mr. Bravo. He may not be able to vote on this vital item. Thus, there is one less pro-housing vote on the issue.

So what does this all mean for the Mission? Well, the picture is becoming clearer as Mayor Jordan's administration gets more organized..."Its not what you know, but who you know."

The MOEPD is in the midst of meeting with various groups to discuss the Mission's neighborhood economic plan. I've attended several meetings on the issue and the Mission is very clear on what will help the economy -

INCREASE PUBLIC SAFETY

Over and over again I've heard folks say that the best laid plans will mean nothing unless we can improve the

public safety and, by association, the public perception of the Mission. To MOEPD's credit, they've "Heard that crime is one of the major underlying considerations."

So what is the City doing to improve the public safety in the Mission? The most telling statement made by MOEPD during one of the neighborhood meetings is "Conversations are happening and we will follow-up."

The Mission is fed up with conversation, meetings and false promises. We want and need action, not finger pointing. Who will be the next victim to have their house firebombed in an effort to clean-up the neighborhood?

The cops, the City and District Attorneys, the judges, the Sheriff's Office, the State Board of Parole, the State Alcohol and Beverage Commission and all the other related institutions of government say that they are the experts. They seem to have a negative visceral reaction to community input. So lets round them up, lock them in a room and not let the experts out until they have a comprehensive plan for the Mission's public safety.

This model of cooperation should also be used by MOEPD in coming up with the Mission's economic plan. The Mission has spoken...many times...about what we need. After public safety here is a list (in no particular order of priority) compiled at just one of many meetings with MOEPD...The Plan should:

- * have a time line for implementation *
- have a budget, including sources committed *
- implement a residential hiring plan as a requirement of all businesses or contracts which come into the Mission, whether government or private *
- include an implementation program for employment options for newly arrived immigrants *
- develop a micro loan program for start-up businesses *
- attract anchor tenants for employment opportunities *
- encourage the SF Chamber of Commerce to help existing small businesses and bring in larger ones-like the GAP *
- decrease the Vacant buildings and storefronts *
- convert the 16th/Hoff garage to an attended garage *
- increase lighting at BART Plazas *
- provide safe and adequate parking for evening events *
- promote evening events through the convention bureau *
- provide a vehicle for the redevelopment agency to fund affordable live/work space like they did in the South of Market *
- provide more funding for affordable housing with services *
- and *
- provide a way for the residential hotels to be upgraded or purchased by responsible developers.

Hopefully this list will get you thinking about other ideas you can add. Let the City know what you want by writing to Kent Sims, Director MOEPD at City Hall Room 159, SF 94102 and send a copy to this publication so that we can highlight your ideas.

Just because the city has elected a "citizen mayor," don't think that it will happen automatically. While the neighborhood meetings are happening, it is impossible to say what impact our voices will have. In another recent example of community self-determination being thwarted by the City, the MOEPD told a group of businesses, arts activists, developers and affordable housing proponents, that the many months they have spent developing a plan for the North East Mission Industrial Zone, that "The Mayor has a position on what should happen here"...Thank's for leading us on citizen Frank!



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I've known

this city all my life. It used to have a Ford factory, seven breweries, foundries, machine shops and a lot of small businesses that are gone now. This diversity used to protect San Francisco from flat spots in the economy. We really need to hold on to our city's businesses to protect our economic future."

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Editor:

I was very disappointed and disturbed by the false and misleading information contained in the August, 1992 installment of the Mission Insider. The following reality check should provide interesting reading:

The Mayor's Task Force on the Mission (MTFM) has become overly bureaucratic and ineffective and therefore unable to respond quickly to issues in the Community.

Bureaucracy is a necessary component any organization but when the bureaucracy circumvents and replaces the democratic process, that bureaucracy should not claim to represent the interests of the community that it has disenfranchised.

Currently, anyone who wants to get MTFM to generate a piece of correspondence is subjected to a horrendous bureaucratic process that effectively excludes participation by anyone but MTFM "insiders". Even if the Task Force votes to approve a piece of correspondence as written, the MTFM Executives have reserved the right to change that correspondence after the vote.

Since the average age of MTFM members is at least 50, it is absurd to claim that MTFM members are diverse in age. In fact, there is no one under 30 on the Task Force.

The attendance record of at least five of the current MTFM members is so poor, that it constitutes a violation of the rules of membership of the organization; but instead of replacing these non-participants, MTFM is revising the rules of attendance.

Although this group is called the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission, the Mayor who appointed the current members was Art Agnos. One wonders what loyalty, if any, they have to the current Mayor and his policies.

The Recreation & Parks Department had nothing to do with the United States Amateur Boxing Federation (USABF) Youth Boxing program that has been set up at the Precita Valley Community Center. In fact, the basic concept of providing boxing instruction to Mission youth was publicly opposed by senior

Rec & Park staff and several members of MTFM because boxing is a "blood sport". I wonder what they think kids firing guns at each other in the street is?

The fact that members of the community were ultimately successful in convincing the Task Force to write a letter of support doesn't mean that the all-volunteer Boxing Program that Sonny Marson worked so hard to set up at Precita Valley Community Center is a Task Force project.

During July 1992, when the deadline for Prop J Children's Amendment funding requests was looming, a large number of phone calls made to the Chair of the MTFM Youth Committee by the staff and the President of the Mission Youth Soccer League (MYSL) were returned with a message that the Chair of the Youth Committee was on vacation and MYSL probably shouldn't apply for Prop. J funds because they did not meet the criteria of the Prop. J Request for Proposals.

This turned out to be completely false. MYSL was forced to write their Prop. J proposal with virtually no assistance from MTFM (Mary Harden and Frank Lopez gave their help as individuals).

Having a Task Force for the Mission that functions democratically and truly represents the 57,000 people who live and work here is a great idea. But the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission, as presently constituted, primarily serves to obstruct change and most certainly does not represent me.

It's time for this community to start participating in the process that governs its destiny and I can't think of a better place to start than by demanding a complete overhaul of the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission.

Andrew L. Solow

Editor:

This is a response to the August, 1992 edition of Lisa Hamburger's column, the Mission Insider:

I wish to point out that, now that the

Precita Valley Community Center (PVCC) Youth Boxing Program is a going concern, lots of people who had little to do with its creation are trying to take credit for it.

The only people who actively participated in the creation of this program were: Sonny Marson - President of the United States Amateur Boxing Federation (USABF) for Northern California and director of the PVCC Youth Boxing Program, Andy Solow, Mary Harden and myself.

From 1982 through 1991, Sonny Marson diligently sought support from many agencies to set up a youth boxing club in the Mission District, but got nowhere.

In the Fall of 1991, Andy Solow and Mary Harden picked up the ball, started running with it and succeeded in opening doors for us. In fact, the only ones who stood up and fought for us in public were Andy Solow and Mary Harden.

As far as Sonny Marson and I are concerned, the Precita Valley Community Center Youth Boxing Program would not exist today without the persistent efforts of Andy Solow. I can't express enough gratitude to Andy for all his hard work.

Bengie Castillo, Secretary, USABF for Northern California

Editor:

I would like to express my feelings in regards to the August, 1992 installment of Lisa Hamburger's column, the Mission Insider, in which she stated that the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission was the group that helped put together the Mission Youth Soccer League (MYSL).

That statement is false. I will tell you how this group was put together. A local resident in the Mission District by the name of Andrew Solow was fed up with all the youth just hanging around with nothing to do day in and day out. He called Tom Brock, Commissioner of District 1 of the California Youth Soccer Association North (CYSA-N) and asked for a league to be placed in the Mission District.

From there, I got involved in starting MYSL. Four people were principally responsible for putting this new youth soccer league together: Andrew Solow, Tom Brock, myself and Juan Gonzalez. Most of us have spent

endless nights working to develop this league to the point where it is now: roughly 500 kids playing soccer. Eight teams from MYSL will be participating in CYSA-N League activities in September, 1992.

I also want to thank Joel Robinson for making the fields in the Mission District available to us.

I think that the credit should be directed where it is due. From the MYSL directors, thank you Andy Solow

Larry Kischmischian, President - MYSL

Editor:

Enjoyed your article. Alas, oddly, you don't mention the lab rats and mice campaign or the free flats campaign, the two main items here. If only you would. Also, the nigger lip quote is from some bogus issue by someone else, apparently. May I see it? And the pix coincidentally looks like the one very person the CIA was hoping to sub for me.

Voters, write in Swan - all offices, all elections.

Lone Star Swan, car designer and free flats presidential candidate.

Editor:

Please accept my sincere gratitude to you and your staff for the article on "Back to the Picture" which appeared in your August, 1992 edition.

As a local businessman working in the Mission Community for the past seven years, I have strived to build a solid reputation based on providing quality art, workmanship and service at reasonable prices while, at the same time, promoting Latin American and Southwestern Art.

Your article has brought favorable attention to my art gallery and framing business, and for this I wish to say thank you for your support.

Servio Gomez, Owner, "Back to the Picture"



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NEW COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY ACTION JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 1992 777 VALENCIA ST. SF, CA 94110 415.241.1300 ext. 241.

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, RESEARCH & EDUCATION

During the past year, in the *Community Action Journal*, there has been an attempt to present a coherent vision of a college-wide, broad spectrum, multi-cultural and solidaristic relationship with a like-minded community outside of New College. Beginning this fall, we will expand this effort with the establishment of the Center for Community Action, Research and Education. The C.A.R.E. project, drawing upon the 60 years of work by the Highlander Research and Education Center and successful models such as the Collaborative for Community Service and Development at UMass in Boston, the Institute for Community Research at the University of Connecticut, and the Action Research Program at Vanderbilt, will seek to better integrate the goals and resources of the college with the social, political and cultural needs of this community. It will attempt to do this through three avenues of interaction:

Community Action: enhancing our efforts at direct involvement of students in community service and social change activities e.g.

- ♦ group and collaborative projects with the community;
- ♦ increased communication and collaboration between internship programs at New College;
- ♦ an "Activist Year/Semester/or Summer" program at New College for students from other colleges in the Bay Area and beyond;

Community Research: the development of "Action Research" as a model of New College /Community interaction. Action Research is

- ♦ *community-based, participatory research working with the community* in areas such as health, housing, legal issues, etc combined with
- ♦ *community advocacy* in the form of developing education campaigns, local and regional support at public hearings, hosting community conferences and forums on issues, etc. and
- ♦ *community service* : students and faculty working with the community to produce and disseminate written and other forms of educational materials, literature reviews, articles, bibliographies, training manuals etc. for use by the community.

Community Education: refinement and enhancement of our community education efforts via public events, extension and continuing education programs, lecture & forum series, training workshops, summer institutes, etc. to reflect important political and cultural issues in the community.

Some examples of Center activities: helping to provide space for the International Tribunal of Indigenous Peoples and Oppressed Nations of the USA; cosponsoring a benefit reading for Native American women with Modern Times and Glide Memorial Church; holding a workshop with Ernesto Cardenal on Culture, Politics and Revolution; an evening of Czechoslovakian underground music and culture; a legal defense benefit for Irish political prisoner Jimmy Smyth; development of an internship project on healthy community environments with Clear Water Action; co-sponsoring a panel on indigenous medicine with the Committee for Health Rights in Central America and developing a student-facilitated, community-based health resource center at New College (a progressive Planetree Health Resource Center).

The Center will be organized around a coordinating committee drawn from students, faculty and staff from all NCOC programs, as well as, New College alumni and members of the community. The staff will consist initially of a project Director and interested students who can earn both academic credit and/or do work study. The *Community Action Journal* will be the official publication of the Center. The office is located in the former Poetics Program office at 777 Valencia St. Anyone wishing more information should contact Michael McAvoy at 861-4168 or leave a message at 241-1300 ext. 241.

American Indian Movement Holds International Tribunal



Against the legacy of the Columbian Quincentenary, a legacy of pillage, genocide and oppression; and the legacy of the resistance of peoples of color on this continent, the American Indian Movement will lead an International Tribunal to hear testimony and hold discussions about the massive, systematic violations of human rights and international law against people of color. Special emphasis will be placed on the impact for people of color within the US. The verdict and end result are aimed at making the next 500 years different. The Tribunal will take place during the weekend of October 2-4 with events held at several sites in San Francisco including New College. For more information, write or call: International Tribunal, 2940 16th St., #104, SF, CA 94103 415. 552. 1992

SUPPORT FOR IRISH POLITICAL PRISONER

In the midst of another people's long history of anti-colonial struggle, Jimmy Smyth of Northern Ireland, was sentenced in 1978 to 20 years in H-Block Prison for the alleged attempted murder of a police officer. Jimmy and his defense attorneys deny the charges and contend the conviction was obtained on the flimsiest of circumstantial evidence, politically biased judge and without a jury. Jimmy, who escaped from prison in Northern Ireland, has lived under-cover for nearly eight years in San Francisco. He was arrested by the FBI on June 3. Now, having been released on a \$1.5 million bail, he is fighting extradition back to Northern Ireland and a British justice system where (he was beaten and tortured by prison guards) his life will be placed in jeopardy.

The evening will feature a lawyer



Jimmy Smyth is met by his wife Margaret after release on bail.

from the H-Block Two Defense Committee who will explain the legal issues in the case, videos depicting the on-going struggle for freedom in Northern Ireland, traditional Irish music, and refreshments. The benefit will be held on Friday, September 25, at 7PM at New College 766 Valencia St. Sponsored by Irish Northern Aid. For more information contact: Michael J. McAvoy, 861-4168.

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Poetry Page

Editorial Statement

The New College of California Poetics Program presents this page to the community at large so that those who know little of us and our achievements will better understand who we are and what we offer. It is hoped that we will be able to accomplish this by presenting profiles and a selection from the works of the featured poets of the weekly reading series, as well as works in progress from the students and faculty of the Poetics Program. William Blake suggests that "the ancient Poets animated all sensible objects . . . calling them by names and adorning them with [their] properties . . . whatever their enlarged & numerous senses could perceive." It is our hope to share that power and that need for expression as we attempt to enlarge our world and our senses: to see it better as individuals and community, to find and express our common aspects and our diversity.

James Bastian, editor

Works

Editor's note: It is the ambition of the Poetry Page to present current works from the students and faculty of the Poetics Program along with the selections of our Reading Series Poets. It is hoped that any reluctance to submit will be overcome: I vow that you will submit eventually, if for no other reason than to keep me for using my own pieces. If you wish to send something along please leave it for me at the Poetics Office or in my student mailbox at 766 Valencia. JAB.

LUZ
Iridescent
like fire filtered through
morning dew
she woke up,
spread her arms to the sky,
started climbing,
didn't stop to say goodbye.

Luminescent
now ascending
with the glitter
of tears in her eyes
reflecting pellucid off the mountains
to me,
she pauses
half way across
and looks down to sea.

Transcendent
she leaps into the patient Void,
she flashes inside me,
the flash never ebbs;
look down my throat:
I'm breathing her daylight.

Steve Carll

SAPPHO INTO
As blade
by blade moves
the crescendo forms
within becoming
winds gathered
in a gentle silence
wrought of music's flow
in her footsteps fall
moments eternally
thundering
ringing air over
windswept terrain
moving light
among mountain oaks
heaving breast against
breast rivulets descend
into contours of
granite flesh
eroding the crust
hour by hour
in its timelessness
penetrating
drop by drop
the pain
finding the force
to move against
going along feeding
the sea from the earth
carrying the
tenderness that had
her once see me
with admiration
there my torn self
along her midnight shores
gathered together in
brilliance and virtue
returning to her touch
moments beyond the fact
in her healing arms
with her immortal command
dreaming that you and I
had words.

Reading Series

New Reading Program Starts September 10th.

With the advent of the 1992-93 year the New College of California Poetics Program will again be presenting its weekly reading series. Under the leadership of Steve Carll an impressive list of local talent has been assembled to headline the Thursday night programs. Here is the program listings through October:

September 10	KATHLEEN FRASER
September 17	FACULTY/STUDENT READING
September 24	DEVORAH MAJOR
October 1	CAROLYN LAU
October 8	VICTOR MARTINEZ
October 11	DAVID MELTZER (a special Sunday presentation)
October 15	IVAN ARGUELLES
October 22	NATHANIEL MACKEY
October 29	JUDY GRAHN

As is noted there is a special Sunday program on October 11th featuring NCOC faculty member David Meltzer. The time for this reading has been tentatively set for 3 PM, but will be confirmed as the date approaches. We also would like to note the reading of Carolyn Lau on October 1st, as she has graciously accepted our invitation after her scheduled appearance last year was interrupted by the post-verdict civil disobedience.

The series is offered free to all members of New College of California. For those visiting there is a nominal admittance fee (\$6) to assist in off-setting cost, with the provision of a non-NCOC student sliding fee (\$3). The programs start at 8 PM every Thursday at the NCOC facilities at 788 Valencia (near 19th St.), San Francisco, unless otherwise noted. For any further information on the Reading Series or the Poetics Program please call the Poetics Office at 415 881-4168.

FINALLY
—for and or after
John Ashbery
To experience this
trepidation
before the light and then to go
breakneck, full force over the light
to a unanimous decision
about the light.

The words: "are all useless"
is nothing new and you knew this
all along . . . but still, it feels so
Good, to just get rid of it
when you want to like Ashberry
would, just pitch it out there or
'wing it' for the matter.

"They were the same two
crazy police officers walking
up and down the street, prowling,
armed to the teeth."

You see what I mean? It would be
as much as to say that, 'a constant
intake of something is good, is
necessary for putting-out',
which it very well may be and
really, "there're no two ways
about it: writing poetry is
not for everyone, it is
an 'acquired' neurosis,
a 'near atavism'. It is
a thing that you read once and I
read too: kind of 'language driven'
and 'speechy' but not nearly so
important as all this, it's just,
'one of the sights of our town.'

Thomas Stolmar

Gaelforce Forum on AIDS in Ireland



Dr. Evelyn Stevens

Recently, Dr. Evelyn Stevens of Clonboo, Ireland near Galway City, gave up her longtime job to take over *CAIRDE* the voluntary organization that treats people with AIDS in Western Ireland. Dr. Stevens was at New College to speak to the members of GaelForce, an Aid for Irish AIDS group in San Francisco and to raise money for Cairde's new hostel project.

The situation in Ireland is complicated because of the moral stigma of AIDS, difficulty in obtaining condoms (a friend of Dr. Steven, Professor Peter Smith, is working with a group called Condomsense who have illegally begun installing condom machines in public houses) and the general lack of awareness. "When I think about the situation now and what it may be by the turn of the century, I'm daunted." The official figure of 1,500

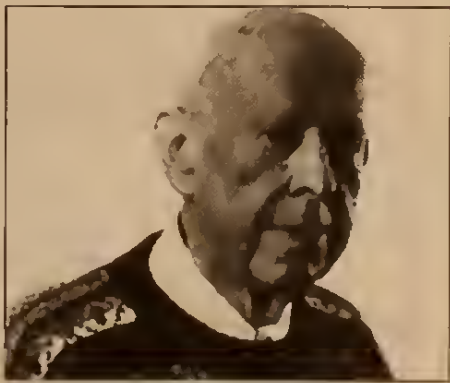
infected of the island's small population may be underrated by as much as ten fold. In fact, Dr. Stevens adds, there is little in the way of accurate reporting.

The hostel would provide rest and support for people with AIDS and their families that they could in no way be able to afford on their own. In addition, there would be a number of alternative health treatments unavailable under normal conditions. According to Dr. Stevens, "These sorts of treatment can be hard for patients to find out about in Dublin, but they can prove to be very helpful; and in this sort of atmosphere they get the time and opportunity". Donations to Cairde can be sent directly to Dr. Evelyn Stevens, Cairde, Clonboo, Orrandullah County Galway, Ireland. For more information Contact: GaelForce, 235 Bartlett St. San Francisco 94110 415.641-8403.

The Integrated Health Studies Program at New College sponsors a lecture series on AIDS and other important health issues such as indigenous medicine in Central America, women's health, alternative medicine, national health care, etc. For more information contact the IHS program at 626-0884.

New College of California Founder's Circle

At the request of Peter Gabel, President of New College, Fr. Jack Leary, who in 1971 founded the college in his living room with 12 students, has initiated a new effort to develop institutional economic and visionary support for the coming years of change in higher education.



Founder Emeritus Jack Leary

Leary, whose current position at New College is Founder Emeritus, is creating a Founder's Circle of people from around the country who have assisted the college in a variety of ways in the past. Leary has confirmations from a number of notable people: Eli Thomas, who was on the first New College Board of Trustees and donated the first \$2000 to start the college; Andy Polich of Seattle, who has donated \$100,000 in the past as a Trustee; Monda van Hollebeke, college instructor from Edmonds, Washington, and who is the author of *Jebbie*; Leary's biography; Scott Warmuth, a New College graduate and now an attorney in Los

Angeles; and John Battilega, engineer and humanist from Littleton, Colorado.

Leary is seeking additional members who play a role in outline a path of fiscal security into the new century, as well as, provide a necessary body of sympathetic people to help provide insight on the college's academic future in times of certain change. Leary hopes the group will meet at least twice a year. For more information, Jack Leary can be reached at New College of California, 777 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA. 94110 or call (415) 861-4168.

LEST WE FORGET



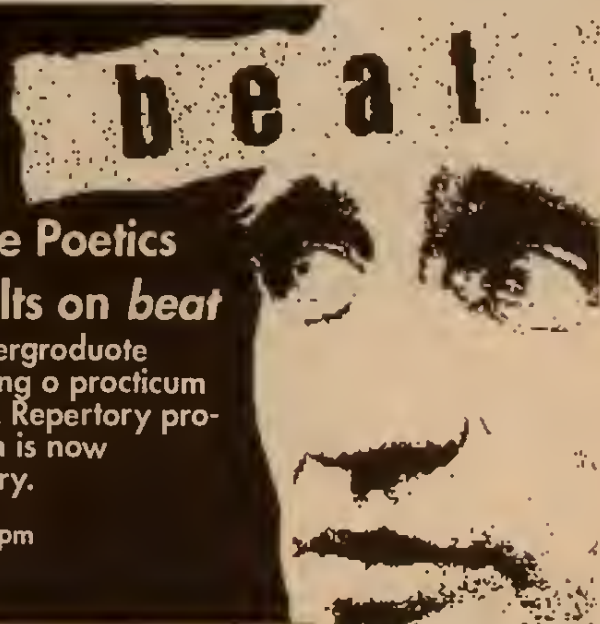
Stencil which appeared on the New College Valencia Center
As a result of teach-ins held last spring, a committee was formed to plan continuing responses to the L.A. verdict. A meeting will be announced soon.

North Beach
Repertory
presents

Undergraduate Poetics
Student Consults on *beat*

Tom Stolor, on undergraduate poetics student is doing a procticum with the North Beach Repertory production of *Beat* which is now playing at the Connery.

Thurs.—Sat. 8pm, Sun. 2pm
Reservations 928.4860



The Community Action Journal is the official publication of the Center for Community Action, Research and Education at the New College of California, 777 Valencia Street, San Francisco, California 94110. Tel. 415. 626-1694 ext. 427.

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New College Holds Reception For Second International COMAP[®] Conference of Visual Artists



On August 4th, New College held a special reception at 50 Fell St. for artists from around the world attending the Second International Conference of Visual Artists. The Fell St. campus was selected because several of the artists participating Carlos Lorca, Ray Patlan, Nemesio Estrada and Betsy Miller-Kusz have done murals and sculpture there.

A special event was the unveiling of Tahitian artist, Shane Eagleton's "Totem of the Seven Continents", a 35 foot totem that was decorated by the visiting artists and other attendees of the event. It will be permanently installed at the Fell St. campus this fall. Music was provided by Herbie Lewis and the *New College Jazz Quartet*; *Al-Tajamo Al-Arabe*, a traditional Arab music group; Czech underground singer Jim Cert, and a dance ended the evening with the all women rhythms of *Mango Jam*.

Mango Jam Headlines Welcome Back Fall Semester Party - September 18



On Friday, September 18, the Valencia Street campus will host a Fall Semester Party to usher in the new semester. From 5:30 to 7:30, there will be a reception for students, faculty, staff and administration from all the programs at New College to get acquainted, then music and dance with Mango Jam to follow until 10:00 in the theater. We hope everyone will be able to be there. Mango Jam is an all women's World Music band playing Latin, Middle Eastern and Jazz Fusion and were the hit of the recent Festival Internationale at Fell St.

If Tom Waits Were Living in Prague ...



... His music would probably sound like that of Jim Cert who for a decade and a half has been the most admired and legendary folksinger in Czechoslovakia. By the end of the Seventies, he was known for his wild performances in pubs and underground meetings, and persecuted by the police for them. His music and poetry connect the diverse arenas of politics, poetics, mysticism, shamanism and links the woe of a tortured mind with the hope of its transcendence.

Jim will present an experience of the Czech underground at New College, 766 Valencia Street on Friday, September 11 at 7:30 pm. The charge is \$5 General Admission and \$2 for New College students.



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by Richard Reineccius

Two of our Mission theatres have been making some wonderful connections with other organizations, from across town to across bridges and oceans, to bring us some very promising theatre during September.

Theatre of Yugen, which has its home at Noh Space in the Project Artaud Building, is seemingly taking a big risk for a small company, sponsoring the internationally known and praised Nomura Kyogen Theatre of Japan in its American premiere performances September 18th and 19th. The company, which has been designated an "Intangible Cultural Asset" by the Japanese government, will perform four stories using Kyogen (comedy) traditional techniques. Don't be scared off by the words "traditional" and "classic", though — it's stylized, but it's known in Japan as a theatre of social protest, using colloquial dialogue and some pretty wild gestures and acrobatics. Kyogen is sometimes performed as comic relief during breaks in the Japanese tragic (Noh) theatres.

Nomura Kyogen Theatre's stories are "The Third Old Man", "The Quiver and the Monkey", and "Six Loads of Wood". I don't know any more about them than their titles.

They'll be at Herbst Theatre in Civic Center at 8:00 PM for the two nights of September 18th and 19th, kicking off their extensive U.S. tour. The Asian Art Museum is a co-sponsor. For tickets, which range from \$12 to \$30, contact Theatre of Yugen at 621-0507.

AT THE MISSION CULTURAL CENTER

Meanwhile, on Mission, Teatro Mision, the theatre arm of the Mission Cultural Center (695-6970), is importing several new productions.

In a full-sized Chicano classic from the South Bay, Teatro Vision of San Jose will perform its production of "Roosters" by Milcha Sanchez Scott. "Roosters" plays at 8:30 on Thursdays and Fridays, 2:00 on Sundays, September 3 to 13 (no Saturday performances), and the tickets are an affordable \$10, with sliding scale seating available if you can't pay that.

Then, for five days only, September 16 to 20, Teatro Mision presents a rousing gospel musical, "Wake Up and Hear the Voices", produced by Oakland author Marie Andrews in conjunction with the Center for African and African-American Culture in SF's Western



MASCARITAS BILINGUAL PUPPET THEATER

Addition. It's gospel, but it can also be described as a biting satire on phony religious leaders and the people who blindly follow or endorse them. You know who they are. Shows are at 8:00 for "Wake Up..." with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2. It should be lively, and it's appropriate for the whole family.

Mascaritas Puppet Theatre (reviewed here in July), will premiere its newest show for children and adults, "The Yellow Submarine", on the last two weekends of September. Mascaritas is headed by the talented Colombian writer-director Norita Gonzales, and is currently a company-in-residence at MCC. All shows are at noon, September 19-29 and 26-27. The premiere is a benefit for the Mission Cultural Center, which has recently suffered severe funding cuts. It's still cheap - top price \$10, with no one turned away if they have less.

Then, at 8:30, September 24 to 27, award-winning solo performer Luis Alfaro will perform his piece about inner city life, "Downtown". Alfaro comes to Teatro Mision from the Solo Mio Festival at Life On The Water Theatre in Fort Mason, which only seems like it's in another county - or country.

And, finally, SF State University's Rainbow Theatre will present "Hot Tomale", a new Chicano play for children by playwright Roy Conboy, who teaches playwriting at SFSU. It'll play afternoons at 2, the first two weekends of October.

For tickets, info and reservations (recommended) for all the above Teatro Mision shows, call 695-6970.

AT THE ROXIE

Mission film-makers are involved in the documentary "Haiti: Killing The Dream", an hour-long film which will have its world theatrical premiere on Monday and Tuesday, September 21 and 22 at the Roxie, 16th Street near Valencia. This film, as you might expect, takes sides as it "... not only explores the tragedy of Haiti (since the 1991 coup d'etat) but also points to a current moral bankruptcy in U.S. foreign policy." It's directed/assembled by Babeth, Katharine Kean and Rudi Stern.

MISSION HISTORIC ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT PLAN REVIVED

A plan born two years ago to create a "Historic Entertainment District" celebrating the many theatres and other gathering places here in the Mission has been given new life through a potential, but as yet secret funder. Save Our Mission Playhouses, working with Mission Economic Development Association and other groups, is interested in your old photos, clippings, or your written or oral remembrances of every kind of entertainment that happened here — vaudeville, music, drama, dance, whatever — from a hundred years ago or yesterday, in buildings still standing or long gone.

Contact Save Our Mission Playhouses at Box 41-1015, Mission Annex, SF 94141. You can also leave copies of materials with Librarian Debbie Comue at The Mission Library, 24th Street at Bartlett. For more info or to get involved with the project, call 626-3668.

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RIGO '92

by Richard Washbourne

The artist Rigo has a show at Pancho Villa's this month consisting of one large piece which he has created especially for the occasion.

His work deals with questions raised by the information explosion: How do you prevent an audience from being a passive consumer of images? How should we come to terms with the fact that our culture sees the image less and less as something that refers to reality and more and more as an opaque surface, as a reality in itself?

Born and raised on the Portuguese island of Madaira, Rigo first came to prominence at the age of 18 in 1984 when he was one of the 25 winners of a national art competition. The theme of the competition was Orwell's 1984, a topic that easily lends itself to didacticism.

To avoid taking the position of an authoritarian subject of knowledge preaching to a passive audience, Rigo presented the gallery-goer with a grid on the floor, a little like a gaming board - on which were several cubes each of whose sides presented a pop-culture image of a potential element of the future. The audience was encouraged to "plan your own future and rearrange, change, alter the order."

The call to revolution was thus reconfigured as something immediate, as a personal challenge to take responsibility for the future,

rather than as an abstract ideology's impersonal injunction to an implicitly passive mass.

Rigo, shortly afterwards, emigrated to the U.S. living, at first, with relatives in Patterson, California and eventually to San Francisco where he was soon invited to do a solo show at Artists' Television Access.

Since his first U.S. show, Rigo's work has met with a great deal of success. He has shown at Southern Exposure, the S.F. Arts Commission Gallery, Show and Tell Gallery and at L.A.C.E. In recent years, he has experimented with advertising techniques, producing art works that are billboards. His works emulate advertising's ability to bypass consciousness and transmit its slogan or brandname straight to the neurons using bright colors, repetition, contrast, etc. At a time when consciousness is confounded and hyperstimulated by a relentless bombardment of contextless, unverifiable information, it seems likely that persuasion will increasingly take place on an unconscious, neuronal level. Naturally, any person or group that seeks to oppose the system and persuade others to do so must learn these techniques.

Rigo's work uses advertising techniques against themselves. In order to disrupt the easy processing of images which advertising aims for, introducing undecidability and ambiguity into the system.

His new piece for Pancho Villa's clearly



illustrates his method. On the left side of the piece, we see a sailing ship of Columbus' time and, on the right, an Indian tepee. Images which Rigo is at pains to point out, are the romanticised, clichéd images of advertising. He explains that they are a "door" into the piece for the TV weaned viewer.

Underneath these images is written (on the left): "History tells you that the best way to travel to exciting places is aboard a hero's ship, but if you happen to be no hero..." (and on the right) "and instead you're a Native-American prisoner, an African slave or you just work aboard the ship, then history tells you nothing."

I didn't have the chance to see the finished piece, only the plan. In the final version, this message will be written in a mixture of English and Spanish, thus sabotaging (at

least for the monocultural viewer) its smooth, passive processing along the normal pathways of visual consumption.

The attempt to sabotage the system of visual consumption is most apparent in the central section of the piece. It is clearly influenced by the billboard form: stark, comic style images in black and white with a few primary colors. But instead of forcing upon us some simple, easily processed slogan, this "commercial" imprints our neurons with an explosion of fragmented images and slogans that cannot be reduced to one smoothly consumable theme.

This is not to say that Rigo presents us with pure chaos. Rather, the elements of this sensory explosion are related to one another tangentially, according to a logic like that of the liberated texts of schizophrenics which, though anarchic, are not nonsensical. The viewer can see that the piece deals with America, its history, its cruelty, its multiplicity and so forth. yet he/she cannot simply passively receive these messages, but must build them for him/herself. In the words of Rigo's earlier piece: "rearrange, change, alter the order".

But there is much more to this new piece than can be covered here. To see for yourself, stop in at Pancho Villa's 3071 16th Street.

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CUSTOM MADE MAN

GUS CAMPOS' J.O.R.E. LEATHER HAS BEEN ON 16th STREET FOR 25 YEARS

by Harry Lupus

Gus Campos imbibed his craft with his mother's milk. His mother was a seamstress, and she kept her smallest child close to her while she worked. When Campos arrived in Tijuana in search of a job, he discovered he already knew how to cut, sew and finish jackets. He also knew how to make patterns. Soon he was a supervisor.

But not for long. There is such a thing as knowing too much. "In Mexico, as a worker, you are limited," Campos says, "even though the worker is the one that makes everything possible."

Campos came North, where he discovered that American employers weren't able to fully use his skills, either. He wanted to work making jackets, but, he recounts, "the sad thing was I knew a lot more than they knew. I couldn't find a job. They tell you, you know too much, we can't afford you." Also, the pay was only \$125 a week.

Today, Campos makes that much money in half a day in his small custom leather shop, J.O.R.E. Leather, on 16th Street. His biggest seller is leather jackets. "The Americans like the leather jackets," he says. "It's a luxury, you don't really need it, but it looks good."

A Campos leather jacket costs between \$150 and \$300. Campos hand crafts every phase, from taking your measurements to cutting the leather, to sewing in the buttons, zippers and snaps. He works on a single, foot-powered sewing machine. He also makes wallets, purses, bags, belts and virtually any other leather accessory. When this reporter

walked into the store, Campos was making an eye patch.

"This guy came in from another planet and said, 'can you make an eye patch?'" Campos reports. "I said, can you pay twenty bucks?"

Campos shrugs. "I can make anything. Why not?"

The one thing he doesn't make is shoes. His father was a cobbler, and shoe-making is another craft Campos learned from infancy. But shoes are too much to handle in the small shop, besides, a hand-made pair of shoes will bring, at most, \$200, and require more work than a leather jacket.

When Campos moved to the inner Mission, the neighborhood was quieter. "The Roxie was showing x-rated movies, and 16th Street was dead." The recent bustle along 16th has been good for Campos, who reports that "the punk rockers like motorcycle jackets".

Campos doesn't owe any money to a bank. He gathered the cash he needed to open his store by selling handmade belts and cowboy hats at craft fairs. His relaxed attitude and short sleeve Hawaiian shirt make it obvious that he is his own boss.

"I've been seeing so many unemployed people," he says, "it makes me feel bad. They are making good money, and all of a sudden it's 'I've been laid off, I've got to make the car payment, the rent payment.' It's sad."

Better, according to Campos, to be out on your own. "If you've been thinking, 'I need money to start out,' that's a lie. There was no money involved. You need courage."



PHOTO BY JOE HAKIM

GUS CAMPOS DISPLAYING HIS USUAL EXUBERANCE

Campos holds out the eye patch he's been sewing. "You see that — that's money."

A man with a cloth eye patch walks into the store. "I have it for you," Campos says. "Here, I made two. I wasn't sure if you'd want the strap on the inside or outside."

The one-eyed man examines the two

patches. He tries them on. This reporter can't resist asking what happened to his eye. "Bells palsy," he responds, curtly. "From Lime's disease, from a tick bite."

The two patches seem about the same to the one-eyed man. "Go ahead," take them both," says Campos, who pockets twenty dollars.

When the customer leaves, Campos reveals one of the secrets of his business success. "He pays \$20 for one, but I give him two. I know it's not going to cost me even \$2, but this man is going to come back. Not to complain, but to buy something else. It's not just taking your money, but you're happy. Anyone who comes in here goes out satisfied one way or another."

Campos' one annoyance seems to be the cheap leather jackets they sell at discount stores for \$50 or \$100. "Sooner or later, you are going to bring it in to me to fix, because that jacket was made in Taiwan." As to the expensive versions sold in the department stores, Campos is more generous. "It's not much different, but you can say you bought it there, you paid so much. Big deal."

As far as business goes, Campos has two wishes. One is that the economy will improve. "Right now, the economy is so fucked up, people don't have time to think. People just want to bite each other and fight each other."

His other hope is that somebody will invest in his store so he can expand production and sell shoes and jackets to retail outlets. "I wish I could put a shoe factory in San Francisco. I wish someone would come and put money and say, 'start a shoe company'."

Why?

"Because, I'm good at it," he says.

By the way, J.O.R.E. stands for Jennifer, Oscar, Raquel and Enrique, Gus Campo's kids. JORE LEATHER is located at 3128 16th St.

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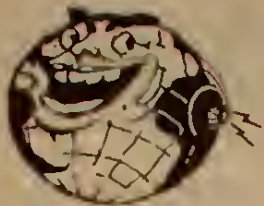
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ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver

ROOTS ROCK STEADY

The ninth annual Reggae on the River festival, August 1st and 2nd at French's Camp in Humboldt county was a phenomenal event. The mellow earth people of Northern California were out in full force and thousands travelled hundreds of miles to be there.

Saturday kicked off with the Robotics providing solid reggae riddims for singers Sandra Cross, Sister Audrey and the witty ragga-rapper Maclen B as the Mad Professor riced up the mix. David Rudder and Charlie's Roots followed with a long, jammin' soca set propelled by a strong bass and horns.

Next, from Zimbabwe, the Blacks Unlimited took the stage. The slower steady beat backed the guitars, bass, mbiras (thumb-pianos) and the trio of horns; this great band was tighter than ever as the mbira-based trance music worked its magic with plucky guitar licks and soulful horns as Thomas Mapfumo wandered on and off stage, singing in his deep, chant-like stream while two young women danced and charmed the crowd. Toots

and the Maytals closed the day playing his classics in a glam-reggae revue.

Sunday started with the Mahotella Queens from South Africa playing their mbaqanga township dance music. Majek Fashek from Nigeria followed, playing his blend of rock, reggae and afro-beat. His charismatic presence and voice is reminiscent of Bob Marley and Fela Kuti and his guitar playing was Hendrix inspired; he closed his set with a surprising reggae version of "Hey Joe" complete with blistering solo work.

Burning Spear then played a solid roots reggae set underscored by those sadly sweet horns. Jimmy Cliff and Alpha Blondy played later - a bit too late for me - and by all accounts were brilliant. Like the omnipresent, odoriferous herb, this was a pure high.

The good people from the Mateel Community Center did it right - the sound was superb, the food and drink was excellent, the crowd was polite, the vibe was strictly positive and the setting was picture perfect, albeit hot, hot, hot. Respect Due!



DUKE REID AND FATS DOMINO

On the musical map, the Mississippi River runs from Memphis to New Orleans and then to Jamaica. As evidence, I present Duke Reid's Treasure Chest - a compilation of sixties Jamaican "rock steady" music recorded on the Treasure Isle label.

Reid's superb studio musicians backed some of Jamaica's top singers and vocal groups such as the Paragons, the Melodians, Mr. Alton Ellis, Justin Hinds and U Roy.

Heartbeat Records has done an excellent

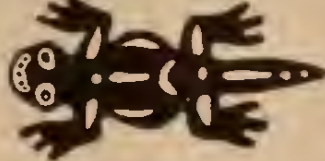
job collecting and remastering these 41 songs for a 2 C.D./Cass. set. Included are the original "Tide Is High", "The Midnight Hour" and its version by original D.J. U Roy, and a soulful version of the Latin standard "Perfidia" by Phyllis Dillon.

Alpha Blondy, international reggae star from Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Africa has released his first legitimate record in three years - "Masada". This is his most sophisticated record yet.

Backed by the Kassau (Antilles mega-band), horn section arranged by Malian Boncana Maiga, a sensual female chorus and his original guitarist (back after a stint with Papa Wemba from Zaire), Alpha's slightly shrill nasal vocals send shivers down my spine as he sings in French, English, Mandinga, Wolof, Arabic and Hebrew.

Every song is unique. "Pala Bakouye" starts like a traditional West African griot song before the beat drops in and "Multipartisme (Mediocratie)" starts with a talking drum. "Ye ye" is a rock flavored tune and "Desert Storm" and "Peace in Liberia" speak to our time. In tribute to Marley, "Mystic Night Food" asks in the chorus, "Why should black heroes die so soon?" Indeed!

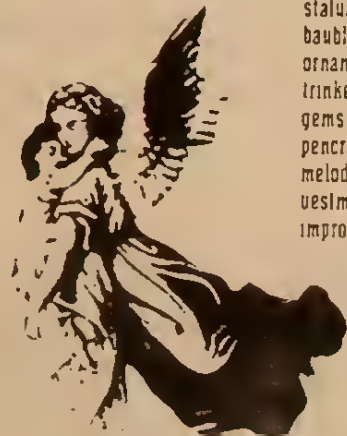
Thomas Mapfumo and the Blacks Unlimited play Thursday, September 10th at Slim's; judging by recent shows they are in top form. Check it out!



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BACK FROM BARCELONA

WEIGHTLIFTING COACH JIM SCHMITZ REFLECTS ON THINGS OLYMPIAN

by Jeff Carter

Every four years, the athletic melting pot known as the Olympics brings together the world's finest men and women in all of sport. The games typically produce memorable performances for spectators but, for athletes and their coaches, some truly unforgettable personal experiences go right along with them.

Jim Schmitz, the United States weightlifting coach who also oversees the action at the Sports Palace on Valencia Street, recently returned from Barcelona, Spain.

He spoke of fireworks, opening ceremonies, parties and people of different cultures, in addition to the lifting itself.

For Schmitz, it marked the fifth time he has attended the Olympics. Previously, he was part of the Olympics at Montreal, Canada, the '84 Games in Los Angeles, the '88 Games in Seoul, Korea.

"The Olympics is the greatest event in the world," said Schmitz. "This one was particularly special because it was the first time in a long time that all the countries got together."

Schmitz noted that over 12,000 athletes took part in the most recent Olympic games.

"On a scale from one to ten, I'd give Barcelona about an eight," he said. "The people of Barcelona couldn't have been any nicer. There were just a few minor things that kept it from being the best one yet."

Schmitz gave perfect ratings for Los Angeles and Seoul with Montreal just a cut below as a nine.

What might have made the trip a little more pleasurable would have been if two Olympians from the Sports Palace had been able to bring home a medal.

David Langon, 25, and Mario Martinez, 35, didn't fare as well as one might have hoped. Langon, who was all out to make his



JIM SCHMITZ BACK HOME AT THE SPORTS PALACE

first Olympic team, missed all of his snatches while Martinez was able to finish a respectable eighth.

"I really don't know what happened to Dave. We haven't really sat down and talked about anything since we got back," said Schmitz.

"I suspect it had something to do with the fact that he just wasn't able to carry that edge into the Games like he did into the Trials. There just wasn't enough time for him to recover," Schmitz said.

Langon, who will return to work full-time for a while for his father's Portola Valley construction company, is expected to make a bid for the 1996 games in Atlanta, GA.

Martinez, the United States' best weightlifter for the last 11 years, according to Schmitz, did about as well as could be ex-

pected in the super-competitive super-heavyweight division.

The '84 silver medalist had a combined lift total of 385 pounds.

"We figured Mario would go somewhere between 380 and 400 pounds," said Schmitz.

Martinez, the Pan Am Games Gold Medalist in 1987, hasn't thrown in the towel just yet and may appear at the '96 Games.

"Mario will reduce his weight from the 310 pounds that he is right now down to about 240 pounds," Schmitz said. "He's done it before. It's something he does after every Olympics."

"There were some really good battles in a lot of different divisions. Unfortunately, the people at home didn't get to see many of them since the total weightlifting coverage amounted to less than a half an hour," said

Schmitz.

As for some of the ambience of the Olympic village, Schmitz said that the dining hall, which could seat 3,500 people at one time, provided the best opportunity to see people of various nationalities.

As for the meals, Schmitz said that there was "as much as you wanted of anything you wanted."

"The Unified Team (formerly the Soviet Union) loved that place, since they are pretty much restricted to a diet of potatoes and caviar in their homeland."

Schmitz related a couple of interesting anecdotes, one involving the case whereby a Unified Team member was asked which way the flag was supposed to face since no one else knew, since it was the first medal won by that nation.

The weightlifter responded with a "your-guess-is-as-good-as-mine" type remark.

"Another time was when I waved to someone who I thought was an Iraqi," said Schmitz. "He was very emphatic and made it quite clear that he was not an Iraqi, but rather a Kurd."

Schmitz was impressed by the pyrotechnics display in both the opening and closing ceremonies.

"They had fireworks going off right by your feet. The place was so loud, it sounded like a war zone," said Schmitz. "They would never had been able to get away with that here in the U.S., even though no one got hurt."

When asked how it felt to return home, Schmitz said, "I've gotten over the jet lag, but I'm still going through a little post-Olympic depression."

"Still, when you consider where some of these other folks have to go back to," said Schmitz, "San Francisco isn't such a bad place to call home."

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EL FAROLITO TAKES SECOND PLACE IN STATE CUP SOCCER

The El Farolito men's soccer team came within an eyelash of pulling off an upset over defending State Cup champions, the Santa Barbara Soccer Club, but fell short 3-2 in this year's title match played before several hundred appreciative fans Aug. 16th at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

The El Farolito team, which is comprised of 15 of the best soccer players in the Bay Area and coached by team owner Salvador Lopez, previously fought to a 1-1 draw at Kezar Stadium against their SBSC rivals.

In their rematch, it appeared as though El Farolito would come away with nothing less than a tie, but Santa Barbara's Oscar Hernandez headed in the winning goal from five yards out off a Mike Murphy assist with just 1:32 remaining in regulation play.

"That was a tough way to lose a game, but we're not going to make any excuses," said El Farolito defender Rogelio Cardenas.

"Santa Barbara played a very rough game. I think we put a pretty good fight, though," he said.

There certainly was plenty of pushing and shoving going on, not to mention an inordinate amount of tripping and chopping on both sides. Yellow warning cards were issued with regularity throughout the match.

Two players were ejected, including El Farolito team Captain Jose Gutierrez, who was forced to leave the heated contest on a ques-

tionable tripping call with just over five minutes remaining and the score tied 2-2.

Prior to that, El Farolito had enjoyed a 2-1 advantage when Samuel Del Prado nailed a 15-yarder into the net midway through the second half. Antonio Leon was credited with El Farolito's first goal, which gave them an early 1-0 lead before going into the intermission tied 1-1.

The State Cup marked the end of an era for El Farolito, which will change its name to Club Deportivo Mexico next season.

The San Francisco Soccer Futbol League champions certainly have a lot to be proud of despite losing such a heartbreaker, as they won the major division for the second straight season.

"This team went undefeated for five years in a row and won by large margins in the minor divisions," said El Farolito road manager Rudy Solo. "This team still has to be considered one of the best in the state."

MYSL UPDATE

The Mission Youth Soccer League continues to gain members and momentum, according to MYSL President Larry Kischmischian.

There are almost 400 youth registered to date and the numbers are expected to reach as high as 700 by the time the league starts in June, 1993.

"Right now, we're in the process of obtaining funding and team sponsors," said



THE EL FAROLITO TEAM: (standing) Rudy Solo, Guillermo Valadez, Ricardo Prado, Mariano Lauman, Luis Orellana, Feliciano Cardenas, Raul Ramirez, Trino Cervantes, Jose Gutierrez, Nik Hatzopoulos, Rogelio Lopez. (first row) Jorge Chavez, Tony Palma, Jesus Cardenas, Samuel del Prado, Elias Fonseca, Salvador Perez, Tony Leon, Salvador Lopez.

Kischmischian.

The University of California at San Francisco has already stepped up to be counted with their \$500 donation to be named as a team sponsor.

The Sign and Display Local 510 also donated \$200, according to MYSL booster Andy Solow.

Solow and Kischmischian, along with MYSL Vice-President Juan Gonzalez, deserve the bulk of the credit for getting the program off the ground. Their countless hours of volunteer work greatly overshadows the efforts put forth by those down at the Mayor's Office, Rec and Park and City Hall.

"The Kiwanis Club is also helping us out by sponsoring our booth which will be on 24th and Mission during the Festival of the Americas on September 13th," said Gonzalez.

"We're still looking for people to serve as coaches or as referees," he added.

Anyone interested in volunteering or contributing to the MYSL can contact Gonzalez at (415) 878-1170 or write to 230 Skyline Drive, Box 216, Daly City, CA 94015.

RUNNING THE TABLES

Some of the best basketball players in the country hail from Indiana, the best racehorses from Kentucky and some of the world's finest surfers call Hawaii home.

What about pool players, you ask? One would be hard-pressed to find a more accomplished group of shooters than the ones found almost nightly at El Farolito (24th and Mission).

You may have heard of A Man Called

Bronson. Well, now there's A Woman Named Charlie and she's every bit as tough with her pool stick.

Last season, the tough-as-nails redhead led the Tip Top Inn Womens and El Farolito Mixed teams to championship wins.

"I've been shooting seriously for about 20 years," said Charlie.

That seems hard to believe since she doesn't look a day over 30.

The El Farolito Mixed team should be double tough with the addition of Corky Kern, another SFTPA veteran.

The lady with a silky smooth stroke and a custom-made Meucci pool cue makes a legal living as a high school English teacher.

During one of her better nights recently at El Farolito, some of her opponents were given a lesson of a different sort as she went on to a pair of four-game winning streaks.

"My back was getting kind of tired towards the end, so I decided to sit this one out," said Kern, taking a sip from a cold Miller Draft.

This woman of mystery mirrors the image portrayed by Maria Mantequilla, a fictional femme fatale who strikes fear into Mission District ruffians in my upcoming book entitled "No Minutes To Post".

CRUEL JOKE DEPT.

The guys who have to sell ice cream at Candlestick night games.

WISHFUL THINKING ITEM NO. 7

Giants fan wearing shirt with slogan reading: "Four More Years".

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A WOMAN OF STATUS

ROSA RIVERA NAMED TO COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

by Richard Washbourne

One of six new appointees to the Commission on the Status of Women is Rosa Rivera, proprietor of El Nuevo Frutilandia restaurant on 24th Street. She currently chairs the 24th Street Merchants Association and is well known as an advocate of small business and for the economic revitalization of the Mission. She will bring considerable administrative skills to her new post and should prove to be a very effective commissioner.

Since 1989 she has been chair of the Physical Improvement and Preservation Subcommittee of the 24th Street Revitalization Committee. As owner of a local restaurant, she is well aware of how the neighborhood's problems, not least its dirty streets and the dilapidated appearance of some of its buildings, which handicap small business. She feels that these problems are the result of years of neglect on the part of City Hall, and her subcommittee has lobbied the City vigorously for funds to revitalize the neighborhood. The committee recently managed to get \$1 million from the city that, according to Rivera, will be used to extend a facade loan program, assist small businesses with loans and anchor non-profit agencies that contribute to the neighborhood's cultural life.

Eight months ago, Rivera went to work for the Mission Economic Development Association (MEDA) as its business consultant. While many non-profit agencies simply wait for the public to approach them, Rivera and MEDA's executive director, Roberto Barragan, have sought a more activist role for their agency, working with the merchants' associations to identify new or struggling small businesses, then approaching their proprietors and offering them various kinds of assistance. Says Rivera: "Big corporations can afford to hire someone to find them government subsidies and so on, but most small business owners are too busy to find out on their own about programs such as ours."

Much of Rivera's efforts at MEDA have involved countering the effects on the community of redlining: the reluctance of banks and S&L's to loan to businesses in low income and minority neighborhoods. "In the Mission we have 6 or 7 banks within 10 blocks, obviously making money off this community; but only a small percentage are usually willing to make loans to our small businesses," she points out. The agency puts pressure on the banks to be more responsive to the needs of the community and Rivera draws on her 23 years experience as an accountant and small business owner to arrange loan



PHOTO BY JOE HAKIM

packages for small business owners.

Rivera also holds the new post at MEDA of Enterprise Zone Coordinator. She is in charge of implementing a project from the Mayor's Office of Planning and Economic Development that seeks to persuade business to relocate to the Mission through a variety of tax and other incentives. Rivera hopes that creating such enterprise zones will stem the exodus of large businesses from the City and State.

Rivera was appointed to the Commission on the Status of Women on August 12th. She will be one of 7 commissioners who meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. The commission consults the Mayor and other government officials, agencies and departments on any matters relating to women. It advocates

and proposes legislation on women's issues and monitors complaints of sexual harassment.

In light of her past record, many people have high expectations of Rivera in the role of commissioner. Says Sharon Johnson, the commission's executive director: "I'm very excited that she's on the commission. She has shown a high level of commitment to women-owned businesses and to women's issues in general, and we're all inspired by her successes as a community activist. What I like most, though, is that she's bubbling with enthusiasm to get down to work."

Rivera can be reached in her capacity as a MEDA staff person at 2601 Mission Street, 9th Floor (282-3334) or through the Commission for the Status of Women (252-2570).

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A young woman named Norma Jean Croy leaves her home on a bright, country day. This is the beginning of a bad dream. She and her companions stop at a convenience store where they're treated rudely because they aren't good ol' boys.

The physical and verbal abuse escalates into a scuffle. As they leave, a police car arrives and, on the vague order of the instigating cashier, the police, without question, chase "them" through windy, scenic roads turned into a roller coaster ride of terror. Fifteen cars and twenty seven police officers join in the excitement. They're in hunting pursuit of their prey, described on police radios as "a car full of Indians".

At the end of the chase the police pull out semi-automatic weapons, spraying the countryside, all its critters and movable objects with a barrage of bullets. (Perhaps these guys had watched too many westerns.) The Indians have one .22 rifle used for deer hunting. Norma Jean is shot once in the back, a cousin in the groin as he attempts to surrender, and her brother Hooty is shot twice in the back. It's at this moment that one shot rings out from the .22 held by Hooty. In panicked self defense he shoots the cop who was shooting him. The cop, who'd been drinking, couldn't clearly discern the right course of action. Now he's dead.

Hooty is sentenced to death; Norma Jean, who hadn't touched the gun, is sentenced to life in prison for "conspiracy". Two years ago, Hooty was retried by order of the Rose Bird court and freed from jail. The jury found that racism in Yreka and police abuse had created the situation that led to the officer's

death. This process took twelve years for Hooty.

Norma Jean is still in jail. At a recent parole hearing she was denied parole even though the judge who heard Hooty's case believes a retrial of Norma would find her not guilty. The San Francisco Superior Court recently denied a petition of habeas corpus. More petitions to other courts are forthcoming.

Now we've moved from the police hunt game onto the mouse maze test. The courts aren't so much an institution of justice as they're a bureaucratic system. When a mistake is made and once a person enters that system, it takes many machinations to correct the error. It's like trying to correct a bank statement or utility bill. You have to get some ever changing clerk to admit the mistake; then you have to fill out the right form correctly with vague instructions, then send the form to the right department.

With courts and prisons there's a lot more at stake than correcting a name spelling or getting a refund. Hooty could've been executed. Norma Jean has had fourteen years of her life and freedom stolen from her, uncorrectable and nonrefundable.

Lost in this procedural chaos is any sense of logic or justice. In a sensible scenario, since Hooty is free, Norma Jean should be freed automatically because the reason for the charge against her has been voided. Currently her life sentence still stands just for her being where a crime wasn't committed. She'll stay in jail until the right form is filled out, sent to the right clerk in the right department.

The bureaucracy that keeps her im-



Norma Jean Croy

prisoned is the same bureaucracy that created and administers reservations for indigenous peoples. This bureaucracy keeps the people in a state of poverty, ill health and danger. It's those American reservations that served as Hitler's model for Nazi concentration camps. It was bureaucracy that allowed the extermination (and described as "terminations") of millions of people in Europe. These are the bureaucracies that foster the banality of evil that festers into genocide. It's this history that necessitates the use of a "cultural defense" to bring Hooty's release and will bring Norma's.

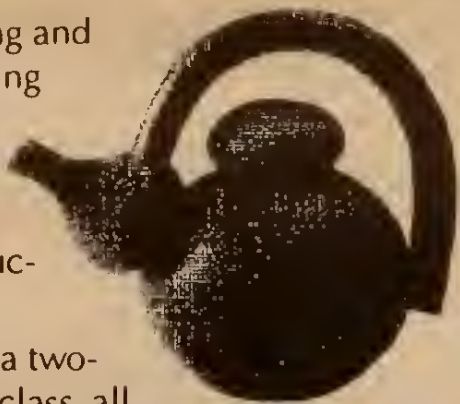
As a writer, imagination is one of my skills. Yet I can't imagine, or perhaps I can't stand to imagine what it feels like to go to a 7-11 for a bag of chips and end up in a maxi-

mum security prison for the crime of being a Shasta Indian. It takes no imagination for me to know what it feels like to be a citizen of a society that allows this to happen. I am ashamed.

There'll be a fundraiser for Norma Jean Croy on Saturday, September 19th at the Women's Building. The International Tribunal (of indigenous peoples and oppressed nationalities in the USA) will also benefit. Debbie Fier, Carolyn Brandy, Tom Ammiano, Happy Hyder, Sharon Paige Ritchie, Kyos Featherdancing, Vicki Dello Joio and Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien are the performing artists. Of this, I am proud.

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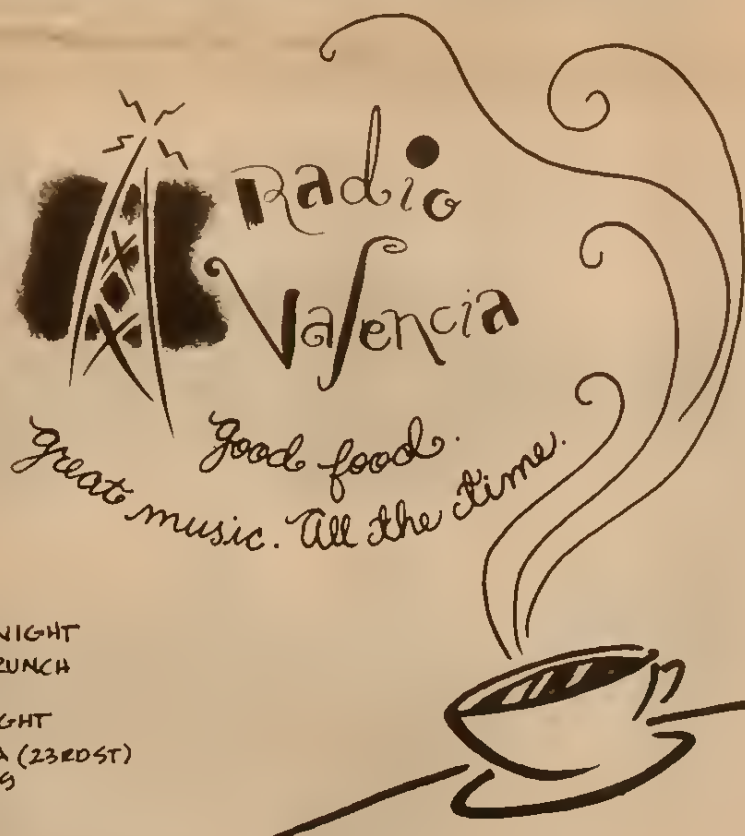
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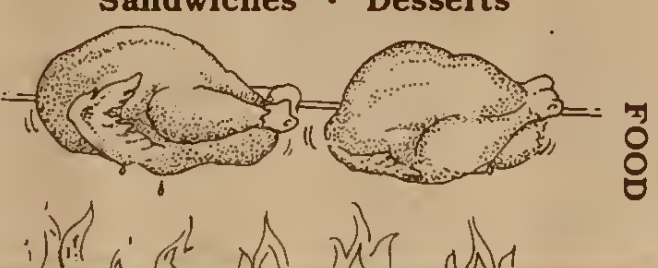
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MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Windolls Theatre of Images - premiere of Colombian multi-media artist Eponine Cuervo-Moll's "TranceMigration" influenced by pre-Colombian creation mythologies and psychologies. Part of Theatre Artaud's continuing Summer Dance Project. 450 Florida, 8:30 (also 4th), \$12, 621-7797.

Before the Last Rat Is Cooked... - experience "Whatever Happened to B. B. Jane", returning to the Victoria Theatre through 26th. Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 PM, Sundays 7 PM. 2961 16th Street, \$13-15, 863-7576. Call the theatre for information on the special "Win A Dream Dinner Date with Baby Jane Hudson" on the 5th.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Another Unbalanced Load - of performance, video, film, music and words with Meg Mack, Jill St. Jacques, Joshua Michele Ross, Tanya LaTaz and lots more at ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM, \$3-5, 824-3890.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

La Train du Memoir - exotic activities and rudimentary behavior at Theatre Artaud with the Dziga Vertov Performance and guest artist Li Chaio-Ping A Summer Dance Project at 450 Florida, 8:30 (also 6th), \$12, 621-7797.

Caffeine Machine - and Studio Four present an evening of music (Gift Horse, Third Rail, Bedlam Court) at the latter's performance space, 2702 18th at York. 9 PM, \$3.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Le Piano - sushi bar and lounge with John Abella & His Dorkestra at Club Chameleon, 853 Valencia. 8 PM, Free, 821-1891.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Men Dancing Eleven - four days of dance and performance presented by Centerspace and the Gary Palmer Dance Company wrap up the Summer Dance Project at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. Performances through 12th at 8 PM with a matinee finale 13th at 2 PM. \$12, 621-7797.

Off the Edge of Your Seat - panel discussion with local and alien artists at the Capp Street Project, 270 14th Street. 7 PM, \$3-5, 626-7747.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

ATA Open Screening - bring your funniest (or bleakest) home videos to 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM, Free, 824-3890. 10 minute limit... please!... would-be Andy Warhols go elsewhere.

In the Heart of the Valley of Love - Cynthia Kadohata reads from her new novel, a stark vision of a new world order set in the Los Angeles of 2052 at Modern Times. 888 Valencia, 7:30 PM, Free, 282-9246.

Sinister Wisdom - local lesbians of color read and discuss their lives and work at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia at 21st. 8PM, \$3-10. 821-4675.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Books Not Bombs - publication party for Food Not Bombs' vegetarian anarchist cookbook promising "30 recipes for 100 meals" plus other useful stuff. 8 PM at Epictetner

Zone, 475 Valencia. Special thanks are tendered to Art Agnos and Frank Jordan for making the book possible (if not necessary).

Overlapping Clothes - dance by Jill Togawa and the Purple Moon Project exploring passion, intimacy and desire between women at Footwork, 3221 22nd near Mission. 8:30 PM (also 12th, 18th and 19th), \$10, 824-5044.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

It's Back! - Craig Baldwin's relentlessly paranoid "Tribulation 99" swoops down on ATA, 992 Valencia along with other unbelievable stuff. 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

Lower Your Rent! - citizens' mobilization for Proposition H, limiting rent increases to the inflation rate at the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, 126 Hyde, 10 AM. 771-2427 (Spanish information - 282-8877).

Bent - a powerful drama of faith and defiance among homosexuals during the Nazi regime opens the fall season at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th, playing through October 17th. Call 861-5079 for times, prices and reservations.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Don't Wing It - get the facts on exotic pet bird care with exotic pet birdwoman Sally Blanchard at the SPCA, 2500 16th. \$10 material fee, call 554-3050 to register.

Third Annual Belly Dancing Fashion Show - As the Carpet Flies presents "The Perils of Karimah", live performance of modern Egyptian television soap opera with music, dancing and fashions by Amina and Shamira at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 2:30 PM, \$7, 282-7910 or 992-1224.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The Body Betrayed - choreographic responses to the issues of our time including AIDS, homelessness, racism and art-bashing in a benefit for the Paraclete Fund, an emergency fund for members of the dance community facing life-threatening illness. Too many top performers to list, call 621-7797 for details. Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida, 8 PM. \$10-100 sliding scale. "A thinking person's gala celebration to open the fall dance season."

Honest Prophets - Charlie Varon's one man show about "eccentricity, evolution and finding the Nixon within" opens at The Marsh at its new space, 968 Valencia. 8 PM through 20th, \$7-12, 641-0235 for info/reservations.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Erotic Reading Circle - women of all preferences and proclivities invited to read from the smutty to the sublime. "Non-judgmental listening guaranteed" at Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia. 8 PM, Free, 550-7399.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Eulogy for a Brown Angel - Lucha Corpi reads from her new mystery novel set against the Chicano movement in Los Angeles at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, Free, 282-9246.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Life Savings - a group of forty-some-

thing lesbian tradeswomen experience urban decay, earthquakes and midlife change in Linhea Due's reading at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia at 21st. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

Sex, Love and Older Women - workshop with sex therapist Ranger Hamilton at Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia. 8 PM, \$20, pre-registration required, call 550-7399.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Going, Going, Gone! - reserve by the 11th for Centro Latino's night at Candlestick. Watch the Giants battle the Dodgers for perhaps the last time... these tickets will be going for a Grant in the parking lot so don't wait. Pre-game tailgate party too. \$12, call 861-8758.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Mascaritas Bilingual Puppets - highly original and inspiring messages for children at the Mission Cultural Center, noon, (also 20th, 26th and 27th. 2868 Mission, \$4-10, 821-1155.

Cyberdelic Moovies - in person come Britt Welin and Ken Adams to premiere their psychedelic "Experiment at Petaluma" plus Marianne Trench's "Cyberpunk" with Tim Leary, William Gibson and Jaron Lanier and U.S. Navy "Just Say No" films. ATA, 992 Valencia, 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

Folk Musc of Veracruz - Tlen-Huicani makes its premiere Bay Area appearance in a benefit concert for Encuentro del Canto Popular in the McKenna Theater at San Francisco State, 1600 Holloway. 8 PM, \$8-10, produced in collaboration with Accion Latina, 252-5957.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Haiti: Killing the Dream - world theatrical premiere at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th, is a unique perspective into the September, 1991 coup d'etat against Jean Bertrand Aristide, the first democratically elected President of Haiti. Only four shows, 7:15 and 9:15 21st and 22nd... filmmakers Babeth, Katharine Kean and Rudi Stern will be present at all of them.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

The Business of Craft - workshop for craftswomen on "Marketing and public Relations" at the Women's Building, 3543 18th. Pre-registration required by 11th, \$10 fee. Call the Women's BUilding at 431-1180 or series organizer Judy Stone, 285-0572.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

West Coast Sweep - choreography and poetry in remembrance of the 50th anniversary of Japanese American internment during World War II at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 8 PM through 26th and Sunday, 27th, at 2 PM, \$12-15, 621-7797.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

The Last Magician - a filmmaker voyeur and a hooker with a heart of gold explore sexual obsession and social ostracism in Janet Turner Hospital's new novel, sampled at Modern Times. 888 Valencia, 7:30 PM, Free, 282-9246.

Downtown - Luis Alfaro's paean to growing up in downtown LA, part of same Solo Mio fest at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission through 27th. \$10-12, 695-6970.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Double Feature Bookparty - Rudolfo Anaya and Sylvia Lopez-Medina read from their new works "Albuquerque" and "Cantora" at Modern Times. 888 Valencia, 7:30 PM, Free, 282-9246.

Articulate Architecture - premiere of

performance/installation work in progress by Fiona Templeton at Capp Street Project, 270 14th. 8 PM (also 26th, 3 PM), \$5-10, 626-7791. Open Rehearsals from the 15th through 26th, 12 to 5 PM, Free.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Organizing Across the Color Line - a multi racial panel of activists dissect the L.A. rebellion and "how we can organize across race, gender and sexuality lines". Sponsored by the Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women, 523A Valencia near 16th, call 864-1278 for time and tendency.

Shop 'Til You Drop - as Good Vibrations celebrates the expansion of its store at 1210 Valencia. 11 AM to midnight, 550-7399.

Encuentro - An Evening with Cuban Women - presentation and discussion sponsored by the Venceremos Brigade at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street. 7:30 PM, 267-0606.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

A Fair to Remember - a day for women to learn about volunteering with community organizations serving lesbians and other women. Sponsored by Bay Area Career Women and the Women's Building at the latter, 3543 18th, 12:30 PM. 495-5393 for info.

Parade of Historic Fire Engines - Sunday in Golden Gate Park may be a little different when a rare gathering of more than 100 pieces of vintage fire apparatus dating back up to a century winds from Fulton & 20th to the Japanese Tea Garden, passing the DeYoung Museum between 11:30 AM and 1 PM. Music, clowns (and maybe 101 Dalmatians?) too.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Temporary Girl - Lisa Kotin "who has been compared to the likes of Fanny Brice and Lucille Ball" portrays the office worker's plight at the Marsh through October 4th. 968 Valencia, \$7-12, 641-0235.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

The Murder of Albert Einstein - is delved into by social critic Todd Gitlin in his first novel. Amazing facts revealed? Can't Modern Times and ATA somehow get together so conspiracy freaks don't get coded out on 20th Street... probably not, 888 Valencia anyway, 7:30 PM, Free. What is the frequency, Lyndon?

ONGOING:

Words:
MONDAYS - thrash-trash poetry at Club Chameleon (853 Valencia, 821-1891).

TUESDAYS - "blabbermouth night" at Club Cafe, Dave Whitaker M.C. invites... beatniks, hippies, poets, punks and ???, 8 PM (920 Valencia, 821-7112).

WEDNESDAYS - open mike nite at Club Cafe, see above for the particulars. New readings rumored at Three Muses Artspace, 395 Valencia. Call 864-2739 for the facts.

THURSDAYS - readings at Cafe Babar (992 Guerrero, 282-6789).

FRIDAYS - Spoken Word Savages at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia, usually late around 10 or 10:30 PM, 641-0235.

SATURDAYS - Children's stories at Mission Library... Baby/toddler lapsits to 3 yrs old 11 AM, Spanish language story time at noon for younger kids. Free afternoon poetry at the Welcome Mat, 1-3 PM, (807 Valencia, 647-3663).

SUNDAYS - Poetry Above Paradise, 301 Folsom at 11th, 8 PM, sometimes free, sometimes not. 861-6906.

Recovery: Support group for men molested as boys with therapist Bill Pike beginning in October, call 552-4270 before September 25th. Substance abuse counseling for gays and lesbians through the 18th Street Services, 861-4898.

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ELVIS

by Al Rose

PLUNK. PLUNK. PLUNK.

His guitar playing was not complex. He kept his chord hand fixed in one position. His fingers did not move. He had his name scribbled on a ripped piece of cardboard. Large black letters:

THE REAL ELVIS.

I have seen many Elvis street guitar players across the country. It seems like every city in America has one. I had to ask him why he was the real Elvis.

"I don't hurt anymore. All my tears have run dry."

(I waited for him to finish his song.)

A passerby glared at Elvis. And yelled: "YOU'RE HURTING MY EARS. MAN!"

Plunk. Plunk. Plunk.

"I don't hurt anymore. All my tears have run dry."

Another passerby told Elvis:

"Man — you are about to find out what it is really like to hurt if you don't move on down the street. If you don't move — I am going to put some real hurt ON YOU!"

Plunk. Plunk. Plunk.

Elvis moved down to 16th Street and Mission. There was a policeman standing on the corner. They viewed each other as if they

had had many past encounters and knew each other all too well.

Plunk. Plunk. Plunk.

Same chord. Same sound. Same song.

"I don't hurt anymore. All my tears have run dry."

A young boy came walking up. He said something to Elvis. Elvis nodded his head. They walked to the Bart Station. Disappeared into the men's room.

I waited for Elvis to return to Mission Street.

Plunk. Plunk. Plunk.

Same chord. Same sound. Same song.

I talked to Elvis. I told him, as a newspaper reporter, I have seen a lot of hurt people. People who wake up with a hurt expression on their faces. People who go through the entire day with hurt expressions on their faces. People who fall asleep with a hurt expression on their faces. I told him I feel that hurt too. I asked him if he had something/anything that would help take the hurt away.

"I got what you need," he told me.

We walk to the Bart Station.

"Did you know," he asks me, "that Jesus was a fag?"

"You better be careful, Elvis. Some people get real upset when they hear someone talking about their god, in a way they find is utterly distasteful."

"Hey—dude—chill out. Peter. Paul.

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CHINESE AND AMERICAN
FOOD TO GO
猪肉類



Mark. John. Joseph. Have you noticed? Jesus surrounded himself with nothing but MEN. And all of them were HIS MALE LOVERS."

"They didn't have homosexuals in those days."

"But have you noticed? They all wore dresses."

"They didn't have pants in those days."

"I TELL YOU, JESUS WAS A TRUE BLUE CLOSET FAG, IF EVER THERE WAS ONE."

"But they didn't have the word FAG, in those days."

"Those days are these days, nothing at all

has changed. I tell you... when Jesus made his ascension he should have made it out of a closet. He was nothing but a closet faggot."

"But they didn't have closets in those days."

We are about to enter the men's room. I stop. I hand him five dollars.

"What is that for?" he asks me.

I tell him:

(... the famous line from the movie...)

"PLAY IT ONE MORE TIME. SAM."

Plunk. Plunk. Plunk.

Same chord. Same sound. Same song.

"I don't hurt anymore..."



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TENTACLES

For untold thousands of millenia, since before that primal dawn when our first ancestors wriggled up from the slime of a blind creation, monstrous Cthulhu has abided in His undersea capitol of R'lyeh. Great Cthulhu — once a galactic voyager, banished from strange spheres beyond the curve of space to become the scion of that ancient, evil race who ruled over the swamps and steaming jungles of earth's youth — worshipped by the lizard-men of Valusia until He brought them ruin — He Who Shakes The World With Baleful Laughter, squatting on His throne amidst the teeming of the lightless deep — a foul, pot-bellied mass of tentacles and squamous flesh in which a hundred eyes and mouths flap open and shut in darkness that is more than the mere absence of light — a darkness that is the effluvium of evil in its purest form, through which the bubbles of His awful flatulence rise like dreams of the deranged.

Why, you may ask, would such a promising potential candidate refrain so long from seeking public office? Because: although His body may repose beneath the waters, His thoughts roam freely over the political landscape; His dreams go forth on psychic tentacles into the puny minds of the electorate; His policies of Darwinian competition, destruction of the weak, intolerance for other life forms, and the glorification of greed and mindless appetite have long been held in favor by most of earth's ruling elite, from Ninevah to Washington, D.C.

Which is not to say that the Big Guy plans to spend all eternity on the sidelines. It is whispered that someday, "when the stars are right", Great Cthulhu and His minions shall rise again...

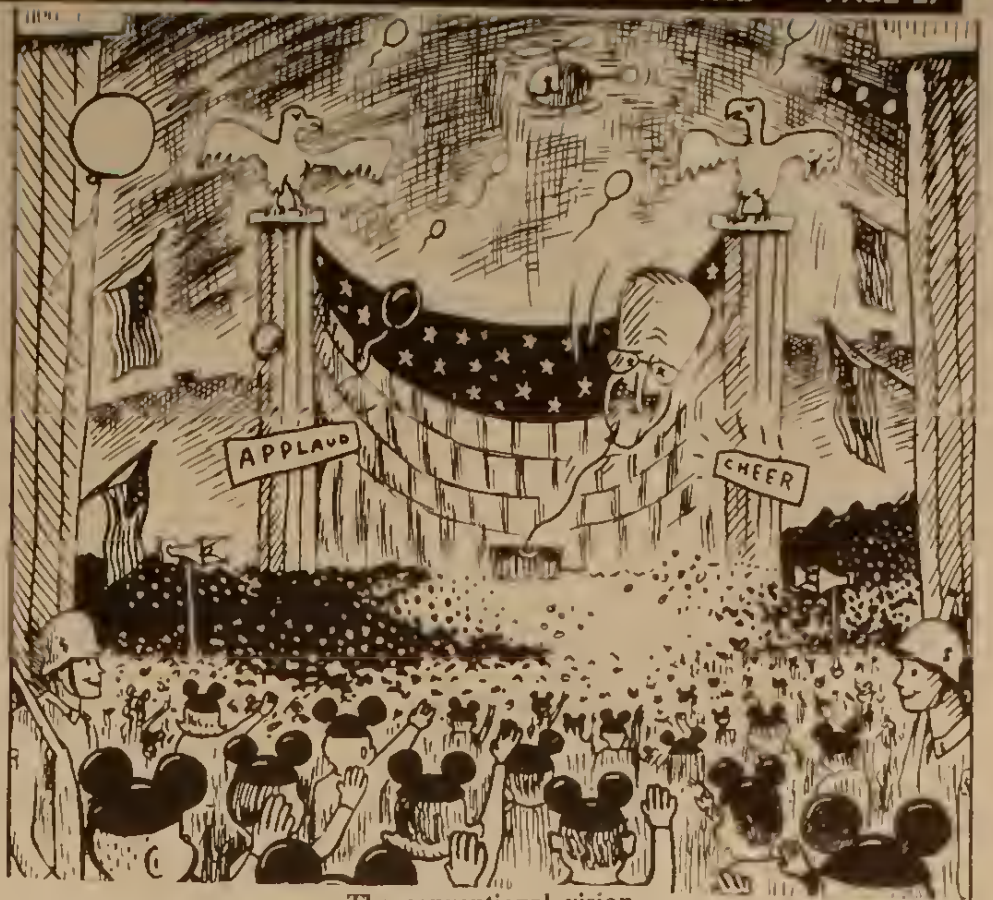
Two weeks ago, the GOP convened in Houston. I bought myself a jar of pickled pig snouts, a case of cough syrup and settled back to watch the astral channel, broadcast from the 7th planet orbiting Aldebaran, stronghold of

another Elder Race hostile to Cthulhu. It allows us to perceive the full trans-dimensional spectrum of events behind what we can see and hear... no special glasses like the ones that Rowdy Roddy Piper had to put on in "They Live!" needed, no commercials!

Well, the first thing you have to get used to with the astral channel is the ghosts — and there were plenty of ghosts in that hall in Houston, the night George Bush accepted his second nomination. In the upper galleries were ghosts from Panama, from Nicaragua; tangled masses of the dead from the deserts of Iraq, buried alive by the thousands; gaunt-faced old women and men from Baghdad, killed for what? Cold hatred flickered in their lidless eyes; the same cold hate that crackled in the eyes of thousands more who roamed the floor of that hall: our own domestic ghosts who died in poverty of AIDS, or on the streets...

Born in the U.S.A., in death the substance of their mutilated spirits trickled down on the convention floor to ooze and seep among, between and through the pork-fed bodies there assembled: twisted spirits taught in the Reagan 80s to breathe an atmosphere of hate; whose soulless, astral remnants are the final products of hate, still bleeding from their wounds, still hungry... And a tattered, ectoplasmic banner is unfurled among them: "CTHULHU FOR PRESIDENT!" They begin to chant it, causing sound equipment, teleprompters, every piece of electronic hardware in the hall to sputter and malfunction... delegates begin to mill about, colliding, mooing in confusion as Barry Goldwater pounds the podium with his own severed penis, and the astral double of our President shrieks at the delegation of the dead to "SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP!"

The ground, the tv cameras start to shake in rhythm to a vague sloshing noise coming from the outside while, in a floating skybox, Eric Severeid is heard to comment: "This



The conventional vision.

could be a more significant political phenomenon than the candidacy of Ross Perot. Even if Cthulhu throws his support to the Republican nominee as He has done in past elections, it looks as though these grass-roots delegates might not let him do it!

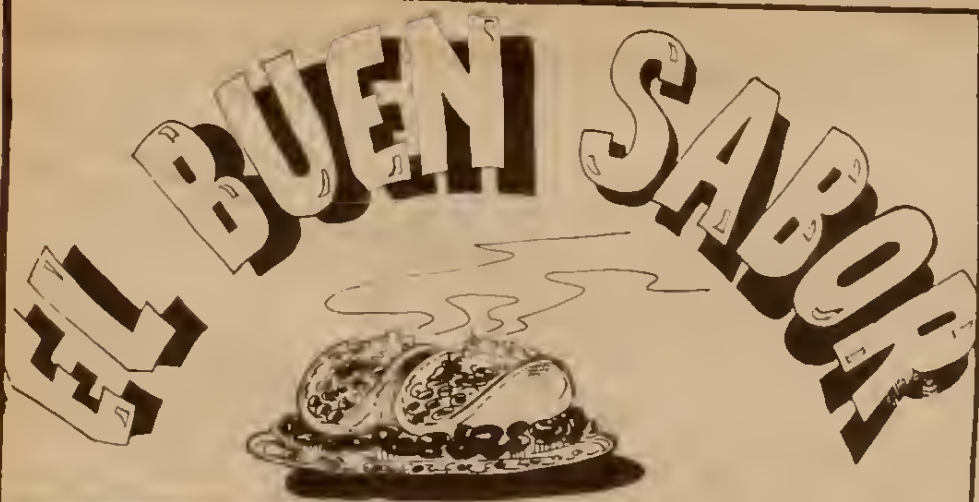
"An indescribable stench is filling the auditorium, ladies and gentlemen, like entrails of an exploded cuttlefish — the ground is heaving, pitching — walls are bending inward, caving in — some kind of plasmic substance oozing through the doors and windows — tentacles! — a long green snakey one is shooting out toward the podium — my God, it's tearing through the President's trousers! — the wriggling blind tip is entering the executive sphincter — yards and yards of it are pushing up him as he flails — Great Cthulhu is taking possession of the President's body in mid-speech!"

"MY FELLOW REPUBLICANS, THOSE BASTARDS FROM ALDEBARAN CAN'T TOUCH ME NOW! I'VE GOT A MANDATE FROM THE DEAD TO MAKE SURE YOU PUNY AMATEURS GET EXACTLY WHAT YOU DESERVE!"

The crowd of ghosts is cheering wildly, tearing at each other, shredding themselves like bacon for Great Cthulhu to digest — and the regular delegates are cheering too, having heard President Bush's acceptance speech as broadcast on the other channels, without the benefit of trans-dimensional enhancement...

As the picture flickers out, the dead announcer gives a bone-weary smile: "And that about wraps it up for us here at ATV. This was Eric Severeid, saying: Thank you, America, and good night."

Frank Deadbeat



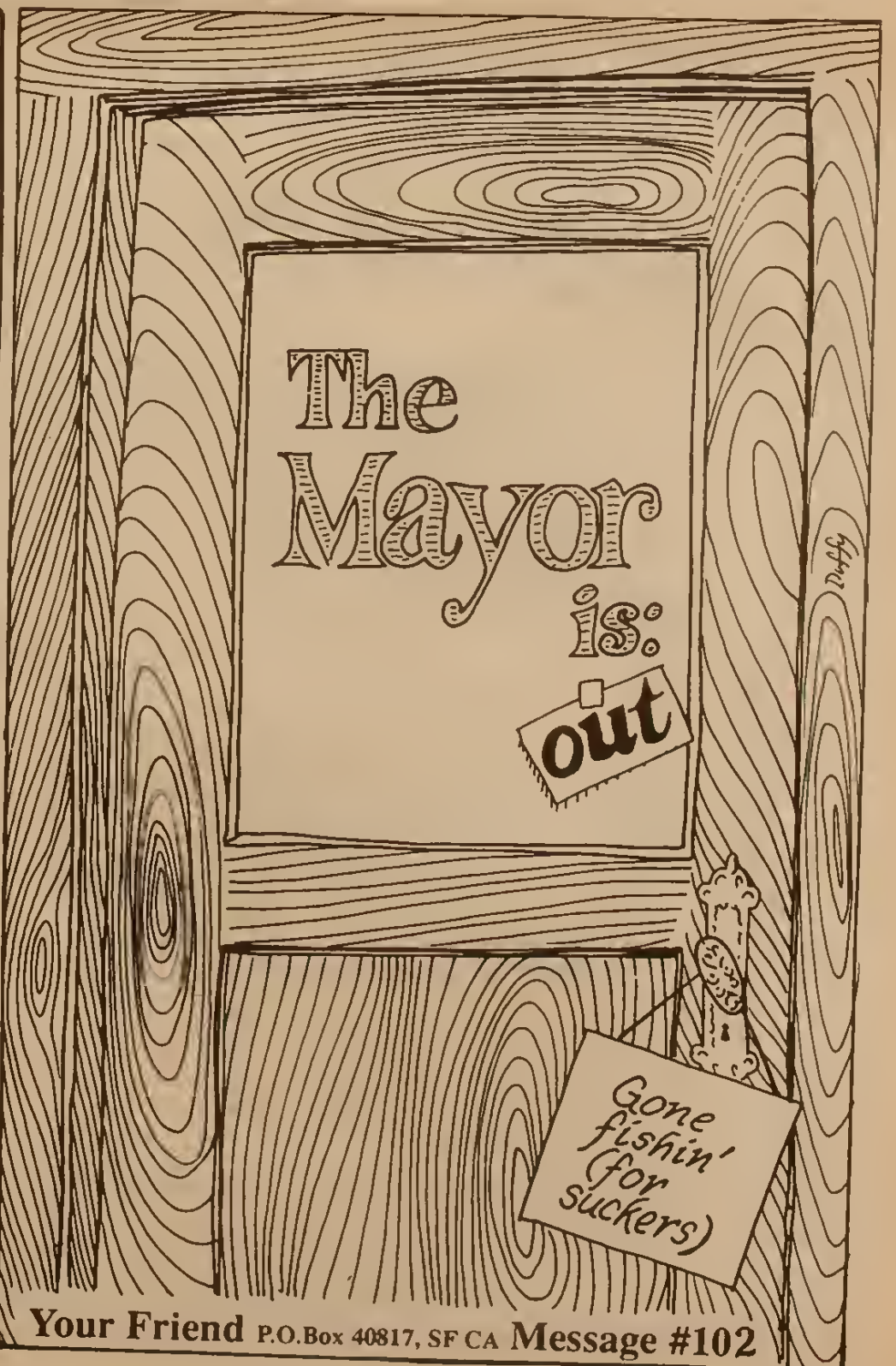
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